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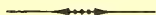
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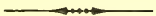




**HISTORIES**  
**Of**  
**METHODIST CHURCHES**  
**In**  
**BURLINGTON AND ALAMANCE COUNTY**  
**NORTH CAROLINA**



Prepared And Compiled By The  
**Burlington-Alamance County Chamber of Commerce**  
**In Cooperation With The Participating Churches**



**Published July, 1963**





H I S T O R I E S  
O F  
METHODIST CHURCHES - ALAMANCE COUNTY

Participating Churches:

Bethel Methodist Church	R-1, Graham, N. C.
Center Methodist Church	R-2, Pittsboro, N. C.
Davis Street Methodist Church	606 E. Davis St., Burlington, N. C.
Evangelical Methodist Church,	Cameron St., Burlington, N. C.
Fairview Methodist Church	Route 1, Elon College, N. C.
First Methodist Church	Graham, N. C.
Friendship Methodist Church	R-6, Burlington, N. C.
Front Street Methodist Church	Front St., Burlington, N. C.
Grace Methodist Church	718 N. Graham-Hopedale Rd., Burlington, N. C.
Haw River Methodist Church	Haw River, N. C.
Mt. Hermon Methodist Church	R-1, Graham, N. C.
Rock Creek Methodist Church	R-2, Snow Camp, N. C.
Saxapahaw Methodist Church	Saxapahaw, N. C.
St. Paul's Methodist Church	Trail 2, Grove Park, Burlington, N. C.
Webb Avenue Methodist Church	1106 E. Webb Ave., Burlington, N. C.
West Burlington Methodist Church	723 Kivett St., Burlington, N. C.

These church histories compiled and prepared by the Burlington-Alamance County Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the participating churches.

Published July, 1963



H I S T O R Y  
(1836 - 1962)

BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH

Route 1, Graham, N.C.

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Rev. Kenneth E. Halcott, Pastor

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Prepared by

Marcia Elizabeth Foust

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HISTORY  
BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH

The exact date of the organization of Bethel Church is unknown, but we are told that Rev. Alexander Albright preached the first sermon ever delivered at what is now Bethel. This was before any building was provided. In giving this sermon he stood on a large rock in a grove a few hundred yards south of the present church.

From the minutes of Orange Circuit, we find that at Salem on April 30, 1836, the following plan of preaching places was adopted:

First	Sunday-----Salem
	Monday-----Chestnut Ridge
	Tuesday-----Rehoboth
	Wednesday-----rest
	Thursday-----rest
	Friday-----Fogleman School House (now Friendship)
	Saturday-----rest
Second	Sunday-----Mt. Hermon
	Monday-----rest
	Tuesday-----rest
	Wednesday-----Mt. Pleasant School House
	Thursday-----Siler City
	Friday-----Tabernacle
	Saturday-----rest
Third	Sunday-----Shilow
	Monday-----Bethel
	Tuesday-----Mountain School House
	Wednesday----- ? (unable to read it)
	Thursday-----Grays Chapel
	Friday-----rest
	Saturday----- ? (unable to read it)
Fourth	Sunday-----Piney Grove
	Monday-----Hickory Grove
	Tuesday-----Foust's Old House
	Wednesday-----Lindley's Camp Ground
	Thursday-----Cook's
	Friday-----D. Foust's
	Saturday-----rest

As this is the earliest recorded date that we have been able to find, we consider that Bethel Church was established in 1836, although it probably was earlier than that.

In 1936, under the pastorate of Rev. Hubert L. Isley, Bethel Church celebrated its One Hundredth Anniversary.

Before Bethel Church was built, services were held in an old log dwelling house known as the Bobbet House, which stood in the field just south of the present church.

In 1841, Mary Foust, widow of Peter Foust, Sr. and mother of Peter, Jr., John, Sr., and Daniel, deeded to the trustees of Bethel Church, John Foust, Sr., William McPherson, Sr. and William Albright, four and one one-hundredth acres and sixteen poles more or less of land on which to erect a Methodist Protestant Church. The church doors, however, were to be open to any and all denominations. Any person with due authority from the North Carolina Conference, or other means, was to have the right to hold services in the church, which was built in 1842. It stood just about where Rev. G. W. Holmes and Gray McPherson burial plots are now located.

The church was a long wooden building with the pulpit in the north side and the doors in the east, south, and west. The windows were small and the panes of glass were



very small. The benches had backs of two slats. Colored people sat in the east end.

As the church was small and could not accommodate the large number of people who attended the camp meetings, which were held every fall, a large wooden arbor was built just south of the church and services were held under the arbor. The pulpit was in the south side of the arbor. Seats were made by putting down logs and then laying slabs or planks across them. Wheat straw was put on the dirt floor, especially thick about the altar and the mourner's bench.

Many families of the community built tents around the arbor and camped there during the meetings. These buildings were planked up and down and consisted of two rooms in which the people cooked their meals and slept. The beds were curtained off with homespun bedspreads. Some of the people camped in their covered wagons. Beds were fixed in the church for the preachers to sleep on. There were often five or six preachers who would cry, "AMEN", during the services, and many of the people would shout and praise the Lord. Among the people who had wooden tents there, we mention a few. On the east side of the arbor: David Moore, George Stockard, John Foust, Uncle William Foust and son, John A. Foust; on the south, Sabert Thompson and Joshua Perry; and on the west, Thomas Thompson and Dennis Wood. Some member of the family would go home to care for the stock. For instance, in the John Foust family Arlando, who was not married would take some of the men home with him and sleep there.

Prayer meeting was held in the church on the first Sunday in each month until Bethel became a station church in 1955.

No list of the charter members of Bethel church is available.

Some of the earliest official members recorded are: William Shaw, John Crawford, Thomas Thompson, William McPherson, John Foust, John Stout, William McPherson, Jr., James Griffin, William Workman, Simpson Boggs, Hiram Johnson, William Johnson, William Albright, William Stafford, Robert Shaw, Oliver McPherson. A little later were these officers: William Foust, Berry Davidson, John Fowler, Thomas Stafford, George Stafford, William Enoch McPherson, and John Shaw.

The earliest Membership roll that we have recorded is in 1858 and gives only the names of the male members. We are placing here the names of their wives and the dates to help identify them.

#### Male members of Bethel Church in 1858

John Foust, Sr.....	1789-1860	(Susan Hornaday)	1795-1873
William Albright.....	1791-1871	(1. Polly Wood)	-1819
		(2. Eleanor Stockard)	1802-
Henry Stout.....	-1893	(Susan)	
William McPherson, Sr.....	1787-1871	(Sarah Thomas)	1788-1854
William McPherson, Jr.....	1821-1879	(1. Caroline Brower)	1824-1869
		(2. Celia Hill)	1843-1910
Oliver McPherson.....	1823-1902	(1. Deborah Newlin)	1825-1851
		(2. Malinda Lambe)	1824-1898
Wm. Enoch McPherson.....	1809-1864	(Mancy Dark)	1811-1868
Eli McPherson.....		(never married)	
J. Ingram McPherson.....	1832-1900	(1. Lucinda York)	
		(2. Luena Edwards)	
John Crawford.....	1801-1874	(never married)	
Simpson Boggs			





Jacob Boggs		
Balsam McVey .....	(Jemima Moon)	
William Johnson	Hiram Johnson	Isaac Johnson
James Griffin.....	1822-1897	(1. Nancy Pickard) 1823-1880
		(2. Nancy Moon)
William Stafford.....	1824-1902	(1. Malinda Albright) 1823-1859
		(2. Rebecca Branson) 1833-1883
		(3. Susan Reitzel) 1860-1936
John N. Stafford.....	1827-1855	
Warner Stafford.....	-1873	(Martha Pugh)
Lewis Stafford.....	-1865	(Mary Ann Shaw) 1834-1905
George Stafford.....	1794-1865	(Mary Hornaday) 1797-1888
Balsam Stafford.....	1822-1907	(Polly Amick) 1819-1896
Johathan Workman		
William Workman.....		(Mary Stout)
William Shaw		
Robert Shaw.....	1827-1901	(1. Elizabeth Albright) 1829-1878
		(2. Cornelia Albright) 1843-1932
John Shaw.....	1832-1907	(Elizabeth May) 1831-1908
William Foust.....	1823-1882	(Sallie Albright) 1824-1915
John Foust, Jr.....	1828-1907	(Angeline Snipes) 1832-1908
Berry Davidson		
Will Davidson		
Murchison Davidson		
William C. Ray		
Green C. Ray		
William Brewer		
William H. Pickard		
James Taylor		
Manly Turner.....		(Nancy May)
Lewis Albright		
John Albright.....	1827-1906	(Polly Wright) -1912
Thomas Thompson.....	1810-1905	(Edna Morton) 1810-1891
Abjicon Lindsey .....		(Mary Ann Foushes)
Milton Allen		
Frances Stout		
Henry C. Stout		
Pleasant York.....	1831-	
Hanse Williams		
Gaston Moon		
John Braxton.....	1831-1895	(1. Nancy G. Pugh.....1831-1885
		(2. Sarah Caroline.....1841-1906
		Pugh)
Number of male members.....	52	
Number of females.....	100	
Number of blacks.....	11	
Total.....	<u>163</u>	

In 1861 Orange circuit was divided and Alamance circuit was formed. Appointments for Sabbath preaching were to be at Mt. Hermon, Bethel, Rock Creek and Concord and week-day appointments left discretionary with the pastor for the following places: Fogleman's Camp Ground, Center, Salem, Tabernacle, Friendship, New Union and Sapling Ridge.

In 1879 about an acre of land, joining the old plot on the north, was bought from Robert Shaw and a new church was built with money willed to the church by John



Crawford; then the old church was used for a school house.

The following persons helped build the church: John and Columbus Coble, Patterson Pickett and his son Filmore Pickett, Dennis Wood, Bob Shaw, John A. Foust, Arlendo Foust, Jim McVey, and Frank Pugh. Ed Benson was the painter.

The new church building consisted of only one room, the present sanctuary, which was built in 1879 during the pastorate of Rev. W. W. Amick. It was a great day for the community when the church was dedicated. Rev. Cicero F. Harris, a very large man, who preached the dedication sermon was told at the door that he could not get in the church because it was so crowded. He replied, "Well, I'll try." One of the hymns used in this service was "I Love Thy Church, O God." Mrs. Will Holman played the organ. Incidentally, this new organ had been brought there in a two-horse wagon belonging to John Foust. When it was unloaded and taken inside the church door, John A. Foust began playing it and it frightened the horses so that they ran all the way home.

### Pastors of the Old Church

We have no complete list of the pastors of the old church. From the minutes of the Quarterly Conferences we find the names of the following preachers present at the meetings of the Quarterly Conferences, but they may not all have been pastors of Bethel church, for we know that several of them served as president of the annual conference:

Rev. Alexander Albright  
Rev. Alson Gray  
Rev. John Hinshaw  
Rev. A. W. Lineberry  
Rev. John W. Heath was pastor in 1866 and again in 1869-70.  
Rev. John Martin  
Rev. C. F. Harris  
Rev. Thomas L. Carter  
Rev. H. T. Weatherly  
Rev. Robert R. Prather  
Rev. Daniel W. Thompson  
Rev. William J. Ogburn  
Rev. John C. Forbes  
Rev. James Gibbs Stockard  
Rev. T. H. Pegram  
Rev. William W. Amick was pastor in 1873-75  
Rev. William C. Kennett was pastor in 1876-77

### Pastors of the New Church

Rev. William W. Amick - 1878-79  
Rev. Cicero F. Harris - 1880-82  
Rev. John Henry Totten - 1883  
Rev. George Washington Bowman - 1883  
Rev. John N. Garrett - 1885-86  
Rev. William W. Amick - 1887-90  
Rev. John N. Garrett - 1891-92  
Rev. D. A. Highfill - 1893-94  
Rev. William F. Ashburn - 1895  
Rev. William F. McDowell - 1896-99  
Rev. T. F. McCulloch - 1900-01  
Rev. J. H. Moton - 1902  
Rev. W. Lat Harris - 1903



Rev. O. P. Routh - 1904  
Rev. W. C. Lassiter - 1905-07  
Rev. William M. Pike - 1908-12  
Rev. J. A. Ledbetter - 1913-16  
Rev. George W. Holmes - 1917-24  
Rev. John A. Burgess - 1925-33  
Rev. Hubert L. Isley - 1934-37  
Rev. George R. Brown - 1938-  
Rev. George L. Reynolds - 1939-40

Rev. Henry B. Lewis - 1941-42  
Rev. Ernie Phifer succeeded by Ray Rowland - 1943  
Rev. Ray Rowland - 1944  
Rev. Donald W. Durham - 1945-46  
Rev. Donald W. Durham succeeded by Wm. A. Seawell - 1947  
Rev. William M. Wells - 1948  
Rev. John D. Cranford  
Rev. Buel E. Bingham - 1952-53  
Rev. Marshall Burnett - 1954-55  
Rev. Denver Stone - 1956-58  
Rev. Lloyd C. Hunsucker - 1959-60  
Rev. Kenneth E. Halcott - 1961---

In 1916 under the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Ledbetter, the church was remodeled by the addition of an entrance at the south end, a bell and belfry, and the church was painted and covered. The carpenters were: Theophilus Nicholson, Ebb Nicholson, and Ressa W. Lindley.

In 1930 during the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Burgess, four classrooms were built to the north end of the church at an estimated cost of \$775.00 but most of the material and work was donated by various individuals. Newton Stafford gave most liberally of time and labor until the work was completed. John M. Foust gave the framing for one room. Ressa Lindley, George Roberson, John M. Foust, Herbert Foust, Harvey Woody, and others gave work. Cash donations were contributed by Gray, Lon, Lawrence, Sallie, Ralph, Ollie, and Webb McPherson; Albert, Minnie, Marcia, and Arlendo Foust; Ralph Holmes, Daisy Dixon, James B. McVey, Ella, Ed, and Arthur G. Thompson, Robert F. Holman, Floy Rogers, Kate Watson, Dora Andrews, and Walter Stockard.

In 1932 the vestibule of the church was divided with classrooms on the right and left and the sanctuary entrance was changed from doors on the right and left to a center double door.

In 1934 the church was painted at a cost of \$135.00. The two heaters, which long ago had replaced the pot-bellied stove in the center of the building but used the same flue through the middle of the roof, were replaced by two heatrola stoves and two new flues were built on the outside of the church from the ground up at a cost of \$108.00. Albert L. Foust donated one of the heatrolas.

In 1935 under the pastorate of Rev. Hubert L. Isley, a new roof was put on the church at a cost of \$332.00, and in 1936 the interior of the church was fixed with sheet-rock. Lonnie McPherson and Mrs. Albert (Minnie) Foust paid for the material.

The first piano was purchased in 1930.

In 1941 under the pastorate of Rev. G. L. Reynolds, land was donated by Lon McPherson and the parsonage was built.



In 1948 under the pastorate of Rev. Wm. A. Seawell, and Brooks Coveney as chairman of the Board of Trustees, the church was remodeled by raising it, brick veneering it, digging a basement and making more rooms. Everett Stout's sons, Marvin, John, and Everett, Jr., dug the basement with their bulldozer. Ross Griffin was the brickmason. Many of the people of the community helped with their means, their time, and their services, both the young and old. The oldest man in the church, Albert Foust, contributed one thousand dollars and spent every day for several weeks helping hand up bricks, and Johnny Braxton, a small boy, was held up and permitted to lay the top brick in the gable at the north end.

At that time memorial windows were put in, and also a hardwood floor and new carpet. New pews were purchased. The old ones were sold to individuals who had them made into tables or other furniture. A gas heating system was installed.

In 1956 new shingles were put over the old roof, and in 1957 the sanctuary and some classrooms were painted by Bill Jowell.

In 1958 under the pastorate of Denver Stone, with Ralph Holmes as chairman of the Official Board, two classrooms and two toilets were built at a cost of ten thousand dollars.

Bethel Missionary Society was organized in March 1905 under the direction of Miss Margaret Kuhns, returned missionary from Japan, who later married Rev. A. G. Dixon. The first president of the Woman's Missionary Society was Mrs. Inez Foust. The charter members were: Inez Foust, Sarah McPherson, Lelia Holoman, Pearl Newlin, Manie Moore, Mary P. Thompson, and Lotitia Stockard.

Two members have gone out from Bethel to become ministers: Horatio Seymour Blair Thompson and William Albright Seawell; and two to become missionaries: Cordia Lee Thompson, daughter of Cicero and Mary Lambe Thompson, and Dorothy Thompson (Mrs. Paul Bunn), daughter of Lonnie A. and Sarah Stafford Thompson.

The Bethel Memorial Association was organized in 1927 under the direction of Mr. McBride Holt. Officers were elected as follows:

President-----	Lonnie McPherson
First Vice-President-----	Wm. Herbert Foust
Second Vice-President-----	W. W. Workman
Secretary-----	Miss Bessie Holmes
Treasurer-----	Albert L. Foust

Miss Holmes served as secretary for four years and was succeeded by Miss Marcia Foust. Albert Foust served as treasurer until his death in 1956 and was succeeded by Harvey C. Foust. The office of presidency has been filled by the following persons: Lonnie McPherson, Herbert Foust, J. Harvey Woody, W. Rezzie Foust, Otis R. Cook, John M. Foust, William A. Seawell, J. DeWitt Foust, Raymond Braxton, Wayne Woody, Ralph W. Holmes, Lacy M. Starr, Tyree S. Lindley, Bob Roberson, J. Sabort Thompson, Earl Johnson, T. C. Boone, Jr., James P. McPherson, Mrs. Frances Roberson Marlette, and Mrs. Eunice McPherson.

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H I S T O R Y  
(1960)

CENTER METHODIST CHURCH

Route 2, Pittsboro, N. C.

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Rev. Robert M. Drew, Pastor

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Prepared By

Verla Mann

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HISTORY  
CENTER METHODIST CHURCH  
June, 1960

Center Church is almost as old as the Methodist Protestant movement which started in 1828. The church was organized at a schoolhouse on William Lindley's farm in Chatham County and was known as Lindley's Camp Ground. Soon after its organization it became a part of the Orange Circuit, which embraced churches in Orange, Guilford, and Chatham Counties, and Rev. Alsan Gray was the leader.

Charter members were William Lindley, Owen Lindley, Amos Richardson, Benjamin Curl, John Russell, and Jacob Piggott.

From the minutes of the Quarterly Conference of Orange Circuit at Salem on April 30, 1836, the following plan of preaching places was adopted:

First Sunday at Salem, Monday at Ridge, Tuesday at Rehobeth, Friday at Fogleman's School House; Second Sunday at Mt. Hermon, Wednesday at Mt. Pleasant Schoolhouse, Thursday at Siler, Friday at Tabernacle; Third Sunday at Shilow, Monday at Bethel, Tuesday at Mountain Schoolhouse, Thursday at Gray's Chapel; Fourth Sunday at Piney Grove, Monday at Hickory Grove, Tuesday at Foust's old house, Wednesday at Lindley's Camp Ground, Thursday at Cooks, Friday at D. Foust's.

Preaching services were held in a brush arbor and in the schoolhouse until about 1848 when the present location of four acres of land was donated by Anderson Glenn and the original church built.

The Orange Circuit was divided in 1861, and Alamance Circuit was formed and the church name was changed to Center. Sill, preaching services were on week-day appointments.

Camp meetings were held at the site of the present church until 1888 except for a four-year period of interruption caused by the Civil War.

The second church building was erected in 1888. Rev. W. W. Amick, well-known as a church builder, was the pastor.

The pastor, or superintendent as he was known at that time, had charge of all the churches in the boundaries of the Orange Circuit, and his work was similar to the duties of the present district superintendents.

In 1905 an annex with two classrooms was added, and a few years later a similar annex was added, later one and one-half acres of land, as well as the installation of electricity, a heating system, new pews, and memorial windows.

In 1930 the memorial association was organized by Mr. McBride Holt.

Plans for an educational building were first made in 1947 while Rev. Donald Durham was serving as pastor. Further plans were made under the pastorates of Rev. William A. Seawell and Rev. William M. Wells, and actual construction began early in 1949 and was completed in 1950 under the leadership of Rev. J. D. Cranford, the cost at approximately \$12,000. A Duke Endowment Fund of \$1,500 was given to the project, part of the lumber was cut from the church grounds and some given by different families, and the majority of labor was donated by the 125 members of the church.

The educational building--composed of classrooms, library, dining room, kitchen and rest rooms--completed the design of a cross.



On Sunday, September 3, 1950, the educational building was dedicated.

The church sponsored suppers to help equip the building. In 1951 150 memorial plates of the church were sold with a net profit of \$133. In 1953 the auxiliary bought a rug with cost of \$1,000, and a new piano was given by Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Richardson and Mr. and Mrs. J. Webb Lindley.

The first babies were christened in 1947 by Rev. Donald Durham.

In 1954 the Memorial Association celebrated its 25th year by remembering each deceased member during that period by presenting a carnation to the family. The church had lost fifty-six adults and eleven infants.

Center Church has furnished three men to the ministry, including the late Rev. A. O. Lindley as well as Rev. J. W. Braxton, pastor of Central Methodist Church in Canton, and Rev. T. J. Whitehead, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Graham.

The following names are the pastors who have served Center Church and some of the years that they served: 1836-1846, Rev. Alsan Gray, Rev. Alexander Albright, Rev. John Hinshaw, Rev. A. W. Lineberry, Rev. John W. Heath, Rev. John Martin, Rev. C. F. Harris, Rev. Thomas L. Carter, Rev. H. T. Weatherby, Rev. R. R. Prather, Rev. Daniel W. Thompson, Rev. W. G. Ogburn, Rev. T. C. Forbes; 1846-76, Rev. James Gibbs Stockard, Rev. T. H. Pegram, and Rev. William W. Amick.

Also, 1877-78 Rev. Wm. C. Kennett, 1879 Rev. Wm. W. Amick, 1880-82 Rev. Cicero F. Harris, 1883 Rev. John Henry Tatten, 1884-85 Rev. G. Washington Bowman, 1886 Rev. John N. Garrett, 1887-91 Rev. Wm. W. Amick, 1892 Rev. John N. Garrett, 1893-94 Rev. D. A. Highfield, 1895 Rev. Wm. F. Ashburn, 1896-99 Rev. Wm. F. McDowell, 1900-02 Rev. T. F. McCulloch, 1903 Rev. J. H. Moton, 1904 Rev. W. Lot Harris, 1905 Rev. O. P. Routh, 1906-08 Rev. W. C. Lassiter, 1909-13 Rev. W. M. Pike, 1914-17 Rev. J. A. Ledbetter, 1918-25 Rev. George W. Holmes, 1926-34 Rev. John A. Burgess, 1935-38 Rev. Hubert L. Isley, 1939 Rev. George R. Brown, 1940-41 Rev. George L. Reynolds, 1942-43 Rev. Henry B. Lewis, 1944 Rev. Ernest Phiffer, 1944-45 Rev. Ray Roland, 1946-48 Rev. Donald W. Durham, 1948 Rev. Wm. A. Seawell, 1949 Rev. Wm. M. Wells, 1950-52 Rev. J. D. Cranford, 1952-54 Rev. Buel E. Bingham, 1954-56 Rev. E. R. Clegg, 1956-59 Rev. J. C. Gilland, and 1959 Rev. R. M. Drew, present pastor.

The church was completely destroyed by fire on September 3, 1955, the frame building being valued at approximately \$45,000. The loss was only partially covered by insurance.

Two days later the members met and started clearing away the remains to rebuild the church.

The educational building was started, and the first service was held on November 6, 1955. On August 2, 1956, the sanctuary was started under the pastorates of Rev. E. R. Clegg, changing on October 7 to Rev. J. C. Gilland, and was completed on June 7, 1957, at a cost of approximately \$39,000. This cost does not include many materials and labor donated.

In addition to the sanctuary--which has a seating capacity of 200, plus a choir room, rest rooms and pastors study--Center Church plant includes an educational building which cost approximately \$16,000. This building contains a fellowship hall, which was used for church services until the sanctuary was completed, as well as five classrooms, a kitchen and rest rooms.





The new building is valued at approximately \$70,000. Almost the entire amount was raised locally except for a donation of \$6,000 from the Duke Endowment Fund.

An organ was given by Mr. and Mrs. J. Webb Lindley.

Memorial pews were given by the following in memory and in honor. In Honor: Calvin and Juanita Braxton, Edward J. and Ida G. Braxton, Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Braxton, John and Ila Braxton, Richard and Opal C. Braxton, William Isham and Sallie Jane Braxton, Ernest and Christine Dixon and Family, Mr. & Mrs. Allen Haith, Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Ivey, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Ivey, Mr. & Mrs. Manson Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Lindley, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Lindley and Family, Mr. D. Webb Lindley, Mrs. D. Webb Lindley, Adrain White & Family, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Lindley, Mr. and Mrs. James Lindley, Walter A. Lindley and Family, Vernon Love, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Love, J. Eugene Mann Family, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Mann, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Mann, Walter and Hattie Perry, Algie Petty and Family, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Richardson, John Buxton and Sarah N. Shaw, Carl Stafford and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Stalker, and Mr. and Mrs. Grant Tinnin.

In Memory: Mr. and Mrs. Rufus C. Curl--donated by family; J. M. and Ila L. Pugh--Ollie Love family; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Richardson--family; Mollie R. Causey and Phoebe R. Tarpley by Daisey Richardson and Effie R. Thompson.

Altar set, donated by Rev. and Mrs. Ernest R. Clegg; Hymnals, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Richardson; Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Lennie I. Braxton.

Pulpit furniture was given by the J. W. Whitehead family.

Memorial windows were given in memory of the following: 1. Braxton--Ira and Nancy; 2. Richardson--Amos, Frances, R. B. and Phoebe, A. J. and Della; 3. Braxton--William E. and Victoria L., Edward J. and Ida G.; 4. Lindley--J. Meacham and Louisa G.; 5. Love--Walter, Ollie and families; 6. Glenn--Anderson, Susan Newton and Ann; 7. Fuquay--J. H. and Henrietta B., William F. and Carrie L.; 8. J. E. and J. M. Mann, A. I. White, families; 9. Lindley--Edgar M. and Phoebe H.; 10. Arlendo S. and Mary E., Cicero N. and Margaret A.

The Building Committee for the new building included Walter Love, Grant Tinnin, Mark Braxton, Marvin Ivey, E. P. Dixon, Jr., Kathleen Tinnin, who was treasurer.

Down through the years a number of Center's members have gone into varied fields of service, including Herman Braxton and William C. Ivey, medical doctors; Allene Fuquay Rathjen, Aurora Braxton Jordan, and Hattie Perry, nurses, and there have been many to enter the teaching profession.

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The committee assigned to prepare this history was composed of Mrs. C. C. Richardson, Mr. J. Webb Lindley, with Verla Mann, historian of the church, as the writer.







H I S T O R Y

DAVIS STREET METHODIST CHURCH  
(1890-1961)

Burlington, N. C.

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Rev. Howard M. McLamb, Pastor

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Compiled By

J. W. Holmes

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## History

### Davis Street Methodist Church Burlington, North Carolina

The Davis Street Methodist Church, formerly known as the First Methodist Protestant Church, began its history in 1890.

At that time, services were started in the Old Union Church, by the Rev. W. C. Kennett who, at that time, was pastor of what was known as Bellemont Mission, consisting of Bellemont, Haw River, Maple Grove, and Burlington churches.

Two years later, in 1892, the Rev. W. F. McDowell was sent to the charge, and early in that year he organized Burlington Church, with 17 charter members.

The first trustees elected were: Robert N. Thompson, Berry M. Cates, and George A. Nicholson. Stewards elected were Robert N. Thompson, and W. M. Baulding.

On April 6, 1892, the lot upon which the church now stands was secured and was deeded to Robert N. Thompson, W. M. Baulding, and Berry M. Cates.

For three years following the organization in 1892, the church existed as a mission with one service each month. During this time the church was served in 1893 by the Rev. C. A. Pickens, and from 1893-1895 by the Rev. W. A. Bunch.

In 1895, the Rev. J. G. W. Halloway was appointed pastor and was the first pastor to give his full time to the church. Mr. Halloway served until 1897, and during that time the membership grew to nearly 100.

Following Mr. Halloway, the church was served in 1897-1899 by the Rev. C. A. Cecil, and in 1900 by the Rev. C. H. Whitaker.

In November, 1900, the annual conference sent to the church the Rev. G. F. Millaway, who served until November of 1906. During his pastorate there were added to the roll 266 members.

The Rev. William Porter came in 1906 and served until the summer of 1908, when he tendered his resignation, and the remainder of the conference year was finished by the Rev. J. H. Abernethy.

The Rev. J. D. Williams, D. D., was the next pastor, and he served from 1908 until 1911. The church had owned a small parsonage on Maple Avenue, but about 1910 it was decided to dispose of this and erect a new one on the lot next to the church, which had been secured, and this was done.

In 1911 the Rev. Thomas E. Davis was assigned to the work, and served until the annual conference in 1913.

The Rev. George L. Curry was the next pastor assigned to the work and served from 1913 to 1915 when he went to Seattle, Washington, to take charge of a Home Mission Church there. Eighty-eight members were added to the church roll during these two years.





The annual conference of 1915 sent as a pastor, the Rev. J. E. Pritchard, D. D., at that time a young man with only a few years in the ministry. He proved himself a good organizer and a hard worker, and 263 members were added to the church during his five years as pastor, which ended in 1920.

The Rev. S. W. Taylor, D. D., was then assigned to the work, and for seven years, ending in November of 1927, he gave abundantly of his strength and ability to building up the church in every possible way. It was during his ministry that an addition was made to the church building, and also a hut, 78 x 38 feet, was erected on the lot at the rear of the church and proved to be of great value, as it afforded not only room for some of the school classes but also as a place for social and recreational purposes.

In 1923, the desire was expressed for a new church in West Burlington. Under the sponsorship of our church, Fountain Place Methodist Church was organized, which, in more recent years, has been moved from West Burlington to Grove Park, a growing development, and the name was changed from Fountain Place to St. Paul.

Our church lost a number of the most faithful and active workers to the Fountain Place Church, but others came in to take their places.

In 1925, the city-wide Ham-Ramsey Revival Meeting was held, resulting in one of the greatest spiritual awakenings our city has ever experienced. Many new members were added to our church. During the pastorate of Dr. Taylor, 350 new members were enrolled, an average of 50 for each year of his pastorate.

In 1927, the annual conference called Dr. Taylor to be its president, and the Rev. L. W. Gerringer, D. D., came to the church and served faithfully until 1930. This, also, was a good pastorate, and was marked by the addition of many new members to the church, an average of more than one for each Sunday.

In 1930, the Rev. Fred W. Paschall, D. D., an unassuming young man, was assigned to our church. At this time, he was somewhat new in the ministry but was fully consecrated to his Master. He soon won the hearts of his people and the admiration and respect of the entire community.

Dr. Paschall gave unreservedly of his time, strength, and ability, to the up-building of the spiritual life of the church. He organized the Young Men's Bible Class soon after he was assigned to the church and served as teacher for 11 years until he was transferred to Wilmington in 1941. His wife, Mrs. Paschall, was also very active in all church activities and served as teacher of the Golden Rule Class.

It was during his last year at this church that our present parsonage was erected at the corner of East Davis and Cameron Streets, the lot having been purchased in 1931 with the idea of using it for a church site in the future. The Woman's Society of Christian Service accepted the responsibility of raising the money for this structure, which was completed at a cost of approximately \$7,000.00.

The Rev. J. O. Long was assigned to the church in 1941 and served faithfully until 1943. He was the first pastor to occupy the new parsonage. His son, Duncan, a student at Duke University, died during his pastorate here, and his body was laid to rest in Pine Hill Cemetery. It was during his pastorate that the present Methodist Youth Fellowship organization was introduced, which superseded the Christian Endeavor Society.



In November 1943, the Rev. B. D. Critcher was assigned to our church and served faithfully and loyally for five years, his pastorate ending in November of 1948.

Mr. Critcher endeared himself to the hearts of his people through his genuine love for them, his happy disposition, and his eagerness to build the Kingdom of his Master. During his five year pastorate he received into the church 418 members, an average of more than 1.6 per Sunday.

In the early part of his ministry here he organized the Fellowship of Evangelism, and under his guidance this group grew, and much good was accomplished.

During his pastorate, and by his leadership, definite action was taken concerning the building of a new church. A Building Committee was appointed, and by November 1, 1948, more than \$90,000.00 had been raised for the new building.

Rev. S. J. Starnes was assigned to our church in November 1948. He was a diligent worker, and proved to be a worthy successor to his predecessors. Under his leadership, the church continued to grow, and the new church building became a reality instead of a dream. Today the new church building stands out as one of the most beautiful in the city, and was erected at a cost of more than a quarter of a million dollars.

Mr. Starnes served our church for four years, and in November 1952 Rev. T. R. Jenkins was assigned to our church, and served it faithfully until July 1956. It was during his pastorate that the Annual Conference was moved up from November to the latter part of June. The church continued to grow during his ministry, and he and his family were well loved by all those who knew them.

The June 1956 Conference assigned to our church Rev. Dermont J. Reid, a native of Burlington, and a young man who had been in the ministry only ten years.

In June of 1957, the General Board of Evangelism and the General Board of Missions of The Methodist Church invited our minister, the Rev. Dermont J. Reid to participate in a preaching mission to South America, and to visit the major mission stations of The Methodist Church on that Continent.

Through the financial generosity of Davis Street Methodist Church, and with the full cooperation of the Official Board, and the membership in general, Mr. Reid was able to accept the invitation and was one of twenty Methodist ministers in the United States to participate in the mission.

The visit enabled our pastor to visit Methodist mission work in Panama, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia. There were brief stops along in Ecuador and Columbia.

Preaching in "make-shift" chapels, churches and out-post mission stations--mostly in Brazil and Argentina, Mr. Reid reported about fifty conversions to Christ and His church. This church and its people counted it a high privilege to have had this part in sharing their pastor with the people of another land.

The June 1961 annual conference assigned Mr. Reid to the First Methodist Church of Laurinburg, and sent Rev. Howard M. McLamb to our church.



During the five years that Mr. Reid was the pastor of our church, the church progressed rapidly in all its phases, and the membership continued to increase. During his ministry 479 new members were added to the church roll.

The work of the church had grown to such an extent that our people, realizing the great amount of work our pastor was doing, asked for, and received by Episcopal appointment, an associate pastor, Rev. James C. Stanford, who did a splendid work with the youth of our church.

In 1960 Mr. Stanford volunteered to become a foreign missionary of The Methodist Church. At the time of this writing, Mr. and Mrs. Stanford have completed their preparatory training, and will soon be leaving for their assignment in Peru.

Our Church Quarterly Conference voted to contribute \$500.00 this year toward Mr. Stanford's salary, as we feel he is one of our Church group.

Mr. McLamb is now in his first year at our church, and under his leadership and guidance, the work is continuing to grow.

Our church has always had an Evangelistic spirit, and we have been fortunate to have had many outstanding laymen and ministers for series of services in our church. Included among these have been: R. G. LeTourneau, Dr. Charles L. Allen, Bishop Ralph Cushman, Dr. Roy Smith, Dr. Harry Denman, Dr. George Fallon, and Bishop Arthur J. Moore.

When the three branches of Methodism united, The Methodist Episcopal, North; The Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and The Methodist Protestant Church, our church had two official delegates at that Uniting Conference--the Pastor, Rev. Fred W. Paschall, and our good layman, Mr. Minter A. Coble.

It was when this unification was accomplished that our church changed its name from the First Methodist Protestant Church, to its present name, Davis Street Methodist Church.

From our church the following have entered the ministry: Rev. C. E. Forlines, Rev. F. L. Gibbs, Rev. R. M. Andrews, Rev. N. G. Bethea, Rev. C. B. Way, Rev. D. M. Loy, Rev. Kenneth Sexton, Rev. S. G. Dodson, Jr., Rev. John Biggerstaff, and Rev. James Waggoner.

When our Sanctuary and Educational Building were completed less than ten years ago, we felt that our facilities would be ample for many years to come, but in less than a decade we are now crowded for room, and additional buildings are being considered and will doubtless be erected in the near future.

Our church was wise enough to secure additional property adjoining the present building, and this will provide the room needed. Mr. Charles F. Foster, who was a loyal and faithful member of this church, and generous with his material means, in addition to giving the pipe organ and chimes for the new church, along with other liberal contributions, also purchased the house and lot on the corner of Davis and Cameron Streets, and donated it to the church, which is now being used as a parking lot. The church also purchased the two houses and lots adjoining the above lot, on Cameron Street.

The splendid history of the past; the encouragement of the present; and the bright prospect for the future all move us to "Thank God and take Courage."









H I S T O R Y  
(1945 - 1963)

THE EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH

Cameron Street

Burlington, N. C.

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Lacy Marshall, Minister

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## A HISTORY OF THE EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Evangelical Methodist Church of Burlington had its beginning in 1945, when Rev. Lacy Marshall felt called by God to build a tabernacle in Burlington.

In that year, Rev. Marshall located a lot on South Cameron Street that suited his needs, and by selling a tent he had used for evangelistic meetings and the truck used to haul this equipment, he raised \$600. To this sum, he added \$400 of his own money to purchase the lot. He had \$11 with which to start the building, but small donations began to come in.

Hennan Holt of Graham agreed to build the tabernacle, and it was started in April, 1945. Money came in each week, and workmen were paid. Mr. Holt gave his services, asking only that the men be paid. When the auditorium was finished, \$2,800 was needed.

Mr. Marshall's brother-in-law, Erwin Hodge, signed a note for that amount. Mr. Hodge agreed to make a donation of \$1,000, settling the note for \$1,800, and the debts were cleared in one year.

The first revival service was held by Rev. C. G. Mitchum of Monroe. In June of 1946 Dr. E. R. Overly of Fort Thomas, Ky., dedicated the building, debt free, in memory of Dr. Jordan W. Carter of Wilmore, Ky.

Evangelistic work was conducted there, with service every Sunday afternoon. Sunday School was started in 1949, and soon after, the church was organized as an interdenominational work, with all people invited to worship there.

The official board consisted of Mr. A. H. Thomas, Mr. James K. Anthony, and Mrs. W. M. Gaydon. Sunday School rooms were built to take care of the church's growth.

In 1959, Mr. Marshall attended the Evangelical Methodist Church conference in Salem, Va., and his church was admitted on a trial basis for one year.



In 1960, the church voted to join the conference, and in July of that year at the conference in Parkersburg, W. Va., the church was admitted, with Mr. Marshall ordained a minister of the Evangelical Methodist Church.

The official board was organized with six members, Mr. Delbert Farrell as chairman. Members of the board included J. G. Patterson Jr., Mr. James K. Anthony, Mr. James Greeson, Mr. James Black, and Mr. George Garland.

Trustees were Erwin Hodge, W. C. Marshall, James Black, and Dr. John R. Church of Winston-Salem.

Mr. Marshall, the only minister of the church, began preaching in 1939 on a Burlington street corner. He later was licensed by the West Burlington Methodist Church and served as guest speaker in many area churches. For a number of years, he conducted evangelistic work in a tent.









H I S T O R Y

FAIRVIEW METHODIST CHURCH

Altamahaw, N. C.

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Prepared

By

Rev. E. E. Whitley  
(1960)

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## HISTORY

### FAIRVIEW METHODIST CHURCH Altamahaw, N. C.

The Church called Fairview was organized sometime during the year 1883 and was received into the Methodist Protestant Conference at the Annual Conference in November, 1883. The church was organized by Rev. J. W. Heath who was serving the Haw River Charge at the time. Prior to the official organization of the church called Fairview into the Methodist Protestant Church, the church called Fairview was already an independently organized church with a lay pastor called A. O. Cox who at the time was also working in the mill presently known as The Ossipee Weaving Plant of the Burlington Industries.

It is not officially known when the church called Fairview came into existence, but we do know that it was organized independently of any denomination, the originator and donor of the land being Mr. Berry Davidson, who at the time lived in the community and who was co-owner of the hosiery mill currently named Glen Raven Hosiery Mill, Altamahaw Division. The deed to the church property was made out in 1884 and was last received from Mr. Berry Davidson and his wife listed as E. H. Davidson (wife). The original trustees of the church are listed as Mr. John H. Cox, Mr. B. M. Boles and others not listed.

How the Methodist Protestant Church settled in this community is not known unless it came about through the migration of Methodist Protestant groups found in this area and other parts of the state to the growing industry found in this section, Mr. Berry Davidson being the organizer of the church and also co-owner of one of the industrial plants in the area.

During the Annual Conference of The Methodist Protestant Church in November, 1883, the following report of special attention was made. This source can be verified in the 1883 Annual Conference report of the Methodist Protestant Church, located at High Point College, High Point, N. C.

"A new church has been built at Altamahaw Factory, or near by, which has been served by the pastor of the Haw River Circuit, who held a meeting and organized a church. The Fourth Quarterly Conference of the Haw River Circuit recognized it as a part of that charge. Yet it may be well to consider the propriety of forming a mission of this and the appointment at Haw River."

This indicates that at the time of its entering into the Methodist Protestant Church the church now called Fairview did not have a name. How the church called Fairview got its name is something of a legend. The church stands at the highest point of land located in a section called the Hub between the two communities of Altamahaw and Ossipee. From the point where the church is located the water flows North into a river called Haw, and to the South to a creek called Reedy Fork. They come together at a spot about one quarter of a mile from the church called Fairview and from that point is called the River Haw.

"It seems that a committee was appointed to find a name for the newly organized church, a name not decided upon at the time of its acceptance into the Methodist Protestant Church. During this committee meeting, Mr. W. M. Taylor's father suggested that the church be called Cox-Davidson Methodist Church after the preacher who first served the church and the man who was its founder. Mr.



Davidson became annoyed and said, "Let's not have any foolishness, we are here to find a name for the church." Because the church was located on a hill, possibly the highest in this area, and because one could get a very good view of the surrounding country, the name Fairview came as a natural consequence. This name Fairview has never changed names."

Like most of the churches found in Alamance and other surrounding counties, a cemetery is closely linked with the church itself. The cemetery is property of the church with its earliest use being closely associated with the beginning of the church itself. The first known person to be buried in the Fairview Cemetery was a one year, nine month old boy named Marvin Gates, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Cates. The child died in October, 1883 and was buried in the Bethlehem Cemetery, but three months later he was moved to the cemetery of the church called Fairview. This dates the Fairview Cemetery from 1883. The cemetery was not marked off into lots and distributed among the members, but the custom was that each member would pick the place he wanted to be buried and stake a claim on it. This has been the custom down the years. At the present time, the cemetery is almost full with only a few vacant spots left for those who have already placed a claim on them. There are no plans to extend the cemetery.

From 1883 to 1886, the Rev. J. W. Heath served the church as its pastor. At the time it was a part of the Haw River Circuit. Following the Rev. Heath was Rev. R. R. Michaux who served the Haw River Circuit and the Fairview Church for one year ending in November, 1887. Following Rev. Michaux was Rev. W. C. Kennett who served the church for two years, his appointment ending in 1889. Rev. Kennett was very active in Conference affairs being honored as the Conference President in 1898 and 1899. During the years he served the Haw River Circuit, Rev. T. T. Ferree was his Associate Pastor. Rev. R. H. Wills served Fairview which was still a part of the Haw River Circuit between the years 1889 and 1891. He also served as President of the Conference seven times between the years 1872 and 1888. He was the president of the conference at the time Fairview was accepted in the Methodist Protestant Church.

In 1891, the Rev. A. W. Lineberry served the Haw River Circuit of which Fairview was a part. Rev. Lineberry must have been an elderly gentleman in the sunset of his ministry as he, too, served seven times as president of the Methodist Protestant Conference between the years 1857 and 1877. It was also during his ministry at Fairview that the original church building was removed to a spot about 100 yards south and west of the place where the present church stands, and made into a dwelling house in which people lived until recent years. It has been destroyed and is no longer in existence. It was told by Mr. W. M. Taylor, the oldest member of the Fairview Church that Rev. A. W. Lineberry, during his pastorate here, drew the plans for the new church that was built on the same spot that the old building stood. It is not certain when the new church was built, but it is fairly well established that it was constructed before 1895 as the Conference Journal evaluates the church at \$2,000 in 1893.

During the next two years the church called Fairview became a part of a new circuit called The Burlington Mission with an unnamed church forming the other half of the circuit. During this period, Rev. C. A. Pickins and Rev. W. A. Bunch served the circuit. Rev. Bunch, as some of the brethren before him, was honored as President for seven years between the period of 1889 and 1897, omitting 1893 and 1894. The President of the Conference did not serve a pastorate, but had the responsibility of going from church to church holding Quarterly Conferences and inquiring as to the state of the church.



Between the years 1894 and 1922, the church called Fairview and the Methodist Protestant Church at Gibsonville were on a circuit together along with other churches such as Carolina located near Glen Hope, Brown's Summit, and Maple Grove, all of which either no longer exist or have changed their names. During this period the name of the circuit often changed from the name Gibsonville Mission to the Fairview Circuit except for a four year period in which the name of the circuit was Fairview-Gibsonville.

These years were obviously not without incident. Sometime between the organization of the Fairview Church and the beginnings of the Gibsonville Church, Mr. Berry Davidson left the Altamahaw-Ossipee Community and went to Gibsonville to live. It was during the period following the arrival of the Davidson's in Gibsonville that the Gibsonville Church came into existence and a period in which there was seemingly much friction between the two churches. It is not known just when this friction began, but it seems that there were charges and counter charges on the part of both churches that the other was trying to be domineering.

Rev. A. W. Lineberry, who had previously served the Haw River Circuit for a one year period, of which Fairview was a part, was the first pastor to serve the circuit called the Gibsonville Mission of which Fairview was now a part. Rev. Lineberry served this circuit for three years, cut short by his death. He was followed in succession by Rev. W. W. Amick, who served for one year; Rev. E. G. Lowdermilk, who served for two years, Rev. W. L. Harris, who served for one year and Rev. W. C. Lassiter who served for one year. It was during the year that Rev. Lassiter served Fairview that the parsonage was built.

The Fairview Methodist Church Parsonage is located directly across the street from the church building. It was purchased from the George Kernodle estate after his death. The deed was written in 1902 and was completed in March of the same year. The trustees of the church at this time were: J. A. Hunter, W. S.M. Bennett, R. O. Bray, H. R. Ireland, J. B. O'Brien, L. F. Troxler and P. P. Troxler.

It is fairly accurately established that the Fairview Parsonage was built during the Conference year, 1901-1902, the year Rev. W. C. Lassiter served the church. In the Conference Journal of 1902, the church reported a total of \$413.15 for parsonage and improvements on the parsonage. This indicates that a building program was in progress. The parsonage was valued at \$1,600.00 whereby the year before a parsonage evaluation was unreported. It has also been fairly well established that Rev. N. G. Bethea and his family were the first to live in the new parsonage. This we know because it was related that Mrs. Bethea told Mrs. W. M. Rich of Altamahaw that they were the first to live in the new church parsonage at Fairview.

Another milestone in the history of the Fairview Methodist Church is the fact that the Morton Township Sunday School Convention was organized on Sunday, July 7, 1901 in the Fairview Methodist Protestant Church with Mr. J. T. Cobb as its first president. During the sixty years of its existence the convention was held in Fairview in 1901, 1909, 1917, 1929, 1937, 1946 and 1955. Interesting enough it is the only Sunday School Convention still in existence. Other things pertaining to the convention which is of interest to those of Fairview is the fact that Mr. W. M. Taylor served as president of the convention twenty one years, and Mr. R. A. Thompson of Fairview served as secretary for twenty nine years beginning in 1901 and retiring in 1929. Others of Fairview who served as president of the convention are: Mr. J. T. Shepherd, Mr. J. H. Troxler, Mr. Lester Stanley and Mr. Lonnie Troxler.





## Fairview Methodist Church - A

Out of the reports of the minutes of the Sunday School Convention, a list of the Church School Superintendents of the Fairview Church were acquired with some years being omitted because of the fact that the names did not appear in the minutes of the convention. Those that are available are as follows:

1901-1904	H. R. Ireland	1922-1923	Amos Shepherd
1905-1906	W. S. Bennett	1924	No Report
1907	W. M. Taylor	1925	Sam Welch
1908-1910	W. S. Bennett	1926	No Report
1911	W. W. Oakes	1927	L. G. Shaw
1912-1915	W. S. Bennett	1928-1946	No Report
1916-1918	No Report	1947-1950	W. H. Williams
1919	Ed Gerringer	1951-1953	J. C. Huffines
1920	No Report	1954	C. D. Crawford
1921	W. M. Taylor	1955	J. C. Huffines
		1956-1959	D. Frank Welch
		1960	S. T. Evans

During the next eight years we have very little information of happenings within the life of the people in the Fairview church other than the fact that the debt on the parsonage was completely paid off and seemingly the church was in a period of growth. The debt on the new parsonage, now almost 10 years old was completed during the ministry of Rev. L. F. McCulloch.

Nothing more is known of the church called Fairview other than the names of the pastors who served the church. But in 1930, Rev. J. H. Abernethy, who served the circuit which at the time was called the Gibsonville Circuit, and who is presently living in Guilford County in the Whitsett Community related that all was not well between the churches called Fairview and Gibsonville. Some differences had arisen over the ownership of the parsonage located across the street from the church called Fairview. It seems that the members of the Gibsonville church had invested some money in the parsonage and were desirous of selling the parsonage and dividing the money. It was stated that the parsonage was deeded to the Fairview Church and that unless the people of Fairview sold the parsonage, it would remain their property. It so happens that this settled the parsonage problem, Gibsonville being the understanding people that they are. They wanted to do the Christian thing and felt that dropping the subject would be to the best advantage of all parties concerned.

A dispute, however small it may be, sometimes does not satisfy everyone when the problem has seemingly been settled. This was possibly the cause of the splitting of the two churches. At the next Annual Conference in 1922, both Fairview and Gibsonville were listed as station appointments. Oddly enough, both churches were appointed the same pastor. Under this arrangement, the pastor preached at both churches as if it were a part of a circuit and served them in the same manner he would a two point work. About the only difference in procedure was in the manner of holding quarterly conferences. Both churches had separate quarterly conferences, thereby preventing any possibility of disagreement. During this time, the pastor made his home at Fairview, this being the location of the parsonage.

From 1922 to 1926, Fairview possibly had more pastoral attention than it had in its history before. The Conference Journal from 1922 to 1926 lists Fairview as a station although it seems more likely that Fairview had at least one other church with it. During the conflict between Fairview and Gibsonville, a church called Carolina, located in the Glen Hope Community was a part of the Gibsonville-Fairview Charge and



seemingly was in complete agreement with Fairview and had agreed to go along with the Fairview group. Rev. J. H. Bowman who had served the Fairview Circuit before in 1915-1919, was again serving the Fairview Church. It was reported that he died in an automobile going to church on his charge. This indicates that at least one other church was associated with Fairview during this period. It seems likely that this church was Carolina.

On the North side of the original church building, you will find four class rooms that were built during the pastorate of Rev. T. A. Williams between the years 1926 and 1928. Mr. J. J. Barber relates that he remembers who the pastor was because of an incident that occurred one Sunday morning before Sunday School. The men were looking at some lumber that had been placed on the church property for the purpose of building the Sunday School rooms. He recalls a statement made by the pastor concerning the erection of the new addition. The new structure was estimated at a cost of around \$900.00. The Baraca Class, now the W. M. Taylor Bible Class, was responsible for seeing the building was completed. At the present time, the Philathea Class, the Nursery, the Primary and Junior classes are using these rooms.

As the years went by the church grew in numbers as well as in spirit. New responsibilities and obligations were placed upon its shoulders. The church accepted each challenge as they arose during the years, and as a result, much progress was made. No church can estimate the value of its ministry, nor can a church give one pastor credit for accomplishments without realizing that it could well have been a contribution of those who came before. We have no record of what each pastor wanted for his people and what his particular dream might have been. We only know what was actually done materially and who the pastor was that brought these things into being. Because we realize that material progress can be made only as our spirits progress, we feel assured that all that was done in the past and all that will be done in the future will be for the Glory of God.

In 1926, the church called Fairview leaves the era of association with Gibsonville and goes in still a different direction. A new circuit is formed with a new church that has come into being just outside of Burlington called Glen Raven. The combined churches form the Fairview-Glen Raven Circuit. After two years on this circuit, Fairview again goes it alone for a year, but returns again to what is called the Glen Raven Circuit. For ten years the church called Fairview is associated with this charge, the climax of which is the fact that from 1935 to 1938, Rev. R. S. Troxler, a product of the church called Fairview, comes home to serve his own people as her pastor. He also came home to die, for in 1938, after a ministry of twenty-eight years, he is called by his Lord to come home to Him.

On May 10, 1939, the church called Fairview, along with all other Methodist Protestant Churches, united with the other two major Methodist denominations and entered into a new era of church life. Fairview is no longer called the Fairview Methodist Protestant Church, but Fairview Methodist Church. At this time it becomes a part of the North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church, the bounds of which is the eastern half of the State of North Carolina.

After unification, the number of churches became so large that it is necessary to divide them into districts. Fairview, in 1939, becomes a part of the Durham District and is now located on the Burlington Circuit. The Burlington Circuit is composed of five churches, the names of which are: Fairview, Bethel, Camp Springs, Mt. Vernon and Shiloh. It so happens that Fairview was the strongest church on the charge and was served equally with the other churches on this charge for two years. From 1942 to 1947 the Burlington Circuit had a pastor and an associate with Fairview being served by the associate with only one other church. During



the 1947-1948 Conference year that Rev. K. M. Thomas served only Fairview and under whose ministry Fairview made a great deal of progress.

In 1941, only two years after unification, the women of the church joined with the women of the Methodist Church and organized what is known throughout Methodism, The Woman Society of Christian Service. It is known throughout the world as the Woman's Division of the Methodist Church. They stand unequaled as promoters of missions throughout the United States and the World. The charter members of the Woman Society of Christian Service of the Fairview Methodist Church are: Mrs. C. M. Tickle, Mrs. W. H. Williams, Mrs. L. A. Ireland, Mrs. C. H. Barber, Mrs. Alice Thomasson, Mrs. A. G. Nicks, Mrs. S. L. Welch, Mrs. A. J. Hill, Mrs. R. L. Ireland, Mrs. G. B. Anderson, Mrs. J. J. Barber, Mrs. E. S. Hicks, Mrs. W. W. Huffines, Mrs. Wake Spoon, Mrs. Myrtle Barker, Mrs. Eddie Smith, Mrs. David Barber, Mrs. John Hughes, Miss Arlene Loy, Mrs. Daisy Way, Mrs. Roy Diffie, Mrs. LeGrande Hicks, Mrs. Lonnie Thompson, Mrs. Lester Stanley, Mrs. Clarence Rudd, Mrs. Leonard Stanley, and the deceased members at this writing are: Mrs. J. F. Barber, Mrs. Mable Troxler, Mrs. Katy Dunn, Mrs. Viola Pritchard, Mrs. J. H. Troxler, and Mrs. Lucy Somers.

On October 17, 1947, the pastor Kenneth M. Thomas gave the following report: The Fairview Church has only recently undertaken a new overall program. A church choir has been organized by Mr. V. M. Bundy, and it is rendering a great and vital service to our people. Others who have directed the choir through the years are: Mr. Howard Larsen, Mr. John L. Amick, Mrs. Betty Boone and Mrs. E. E. Whitley.

Another significant report made by the pastor on October 17, 1947 is: The Church members also voted to ask the Annual Conference to make the Fairview Methodist Church a station church with full time preaching and ministerial service. The people have pledged themselves to this program. We feel that this is a day in which God's people must move forward with a concerted drive. No longer can we be slothful or idle! May the Kingdom of God continue to grow, and may we ever be an integral part of that kingdom.

On March 7, 1948, Rev. Thomas had this to report: We continue to be most proud of our church School and the religious instruction it is administering. A good step has been taken in the ordering of Methodist literature. Fairview is happy to welcome Mr. Harley Williams back as leader, teacher, and superintendent of Her Sunday School. We are expecting big things in the days to come. At the present, we are reorganizing our various classes into more efficient groups.

New organizations within our church are: the Children's Choir, which sings every Sunday night, and the Methodist Youth Fellowship. These groups are newly organized and are suffering many growing pains, but we expect much of them in the near future.

Approximately one thousand dollars has been spent on building and equipping a bathroom for the parsonage. An electric hot water heater and kitchen sink were also placed in the kitchen. The preacher now washes both dishes and feet!

The windows of the church have all been painted. The church choir has been moved behind the pulpit, giving more room and beauty to the church. Other minor repairs are yet to be made and we hope these will soon be done.

Fairview is active and alive. "By their fruits ye shall know them." But there is much more yet to do; we cannot be self-righteous or proud, for we stand in the gateway of a fuller and richer life to come.



At the Fourth Quarterly Conference on September 28, 1948, Rev. Thomas made his last report: "Fairview Methodist Church has made much progress during the past year. The spirit of our people was expressed the other night by the Board of Stewards when it voted to keep Fairview a full time station and to urge that the District Superintendent ask the Annual Conference to declare it so. We are optimistic about the future, and we are sure that Fairview will continue to grow."

The Church School suffered quite a bit from the polio ban; however, last Sunday we began to regain our ground with 119 attending. The various classes are still working on their individual projects. Mr. Taylor's class alone has raised approximately \$150.00 on its enterprise. We hope that such projects as these will soon be under way; fence around church lawn (which has already been leveled and sown in grass), robes for the choir members, elevation of the choir with rail around it, and sometime in the future--a church annex.

On September 25, 1949, Rev. G. M. Fogleman, Jr. makes the following report to the Fourth Quarterly Conference: "Fairview Church this year has had its first official year as a station charge. We would not boast of our accomplishments, but as a united group of the people of God, we give thanks to Him for all the success that has been ours. We are grateful for the opportunity of service here in this community."

This year has been one of harmony and cooperation between pastor and laymen. If we have any one characteristic which has been responsible for our success, it has been that of cooperation and willingness. The pastor has been accepted by the people as their leader. They have followed. They have prayed and worked. They have treated the pastor with respect, kindness, and generosity. Included in the report are the following accomplishments: sixty Upper Rooms per issue, organized Home Dept. and Cradle Roll Dept., began night services in March, 25 new choir robes, pulpit furniture repaired, purchased 50 new Methodist Hymnals, and 100 Upper Room Hymnals, put posts and chains around church yard, paid off church walk, new church bulletin board, installation of water line to boiler, purchase of new G E refrigerator for parsonage, new porch furniture for parsonage, installed parsonage telephone, filled in parsonage yard; cement walk, rock wall, grass, accepted \$5,000 budget, parsonage debt to be removed this year, building program next year."

A dream already expressed by the pastor in 1948 is being more than a dream in 1948. The people of Fairview are aware of the fact that the space within the church is not sufficient to meet the needs of a growing society, and that something had to be done to improve the present material plant. It all began with a small project by the W. M. Taylor Bible Class to install rest rooms for the convenience of the members. From this first fund raising cause, a general building fund was generated for the express purpose of building a new educational unit at the rear of the sanctuary. The building fund was started and a building committee approved. The members of this committee were: E. F. Lowe, S. L. Welch, J. H. Troxler, V. M. Bundy, Howard Larsen, Howard Anderson, and Elmo Jones.

An explanation of the real estate of the Fairview Methodist Church as to the proposed investment and final value as given by Rev. G. M. Fogleman reads:

"The property of the Fairview Methodist Church is located between the industrial villages of Altamahaw and Ossipee. These villages are located on N. C. Highway #87 North of Burlington toward Reidsville, N. C. The church is located on 2 acres of land which is in the vicinity of the Hub Store area and is adjacent to the property of the Altamahaw-Ossipee High School. The parsonage is located on the lot directly across the street from the church."





The new educational building being built is being built at the contract price of \$18,750. It consists of two stories, brick veneer, 40' x 50' as shown on the blueprint. Plumbing will be an additional \$675.00. The new hot air system will be installed to serve for the new educational building and the old auditorium which is being completely renovated. The heating system is being installed at a cost of \$3,200.

The old church auditorium as described on the application form by the appraiser is 40' x 60' with a wing section of 4 rooms which can be seen by looking at the enclosed snapshots. The auditorium will be improved at an approximate cost of \$10,000. This will include brick veneering all the building, new roof, new windows; interior renovation consisting of sheetrock on walls, new ceiling overhead."

This project was begun in August 1951, and completed in time for opening services which were held on March 2, 1952.

During the winter of 1951-1952, the year of the building of the new educational unit and the renovation of the church, the members were privileged to meet in the Altamahaw-Ossipee School which is located on the north side of the church. The church program continued with great spirit and many souls were added unto the church. This was truly a period of expansion and growth, one of the best in the history of the Fairview Church.

With a new educational unit and a completely renovated sanctuary, the people of the church called Fairview continued to move forward in the spirit of Christ. With growth came great responsibility which was met very ably. Rev. Fogleman reports such progress on October 5, 1952. Thirty-one new members were received into the church; more people began to subscribe to the church paper, a young man named Jimmy Stanford was called to preach at a revival held by Rev. Dermont Reid; two new classes were organized, a junior choir was organized; two mid-week prayer services were begun in March as they went into the building; the church sponsored a boy scout troop, the W.S.C.S. grew into three circles, and they also purchased a Hammond Organ at the cost of \$2,359.00. Great days of spiritual growth was realized.

The Conference year of 1952-1953 was an unfortunate year in that the pastor, Rev. Maurice Harrell became sick and had to leave the church. But he was followed by another young man, the Rev. Richard Roberson who took up the slack and led the people to a very successful year. He reports the following on September 13, 1953: "This has been a good year for us here at Fairview. It is hard for everyone when a church must change pastors in the middle of a conference year. But in spite of the many difficulties, we have rallied and proven our desire to work together for the betterment of God's Kingdom here on earth. Our success has not been due to any one person or any groups of persons, but rather to the entire membership." He also reports that the Junior Choir and Junior M.Y.F. were re-organized, the parsonage debt paid, the W.S.C.S. making a final payment on the Hammond Organ they purchased the year before, and two revivals.

With all our "ups," we have our "downs." The parsonage once again seems to be the greatest source of pain that manages to creep in the history of the church called Fairview. During the pastorate of Rev. Maurice Harrell, who served this church for just a short while due to illness, the church undertook another project of renovating the parsonage. The company of John H. Woods, Contractor, made a verbal agreement with the parsonage committee which was composed of V. M. Bundy, J. H. Troxler, Mrs. C. M. Tickle, Mrs. S. L. Welch, Mrs. Thomas Rich, D. Frank Welch, and E. F. Lowe. Those who witnessed the agreement were V. Mayo Bundy, E. F. Lowe, and Mrs. Frank Troxler. The agreement was that repairs on the Fairview parsonage would cost no more than \$2,300 and no less than \$2,200 for a completed



job. This was agreed to by the parsonage committee. The Official Board and the Fairview congregation were informed of this action and made provision to raise the said amount. It was further resolved that, the Parsonage Committee of the church proposes to pay Mr. John H. Woods the sum of \$2,300 plus the cost of some extras not agreed to in the contract which amounted to \$83.76. It seems that the contractor was not satisfied with the amount agreed upon and attempted to charge more than the original agreement. The church proposed not to pay more unless ordered by the courts. This is an account of a written agreement placed in the records of the church.

In 1956, under the leadership of Rev. M. D. Tyson, the building debt was paid off at the total cost of \$46,000. The building was dedicated on June 3, 1956.

Also, Rev. Tyson reported the purchase of picture windows for the church at the cost of \$2,300. Those families giving the picture windows as a gift and in memory of loved ones are: The W. W. Huffines family in memory of Mr. W. W. Huffines, the S. L. Welch family in memory of Mr. S. L. Welch, the J. H. Troxler family in memory of Mrs. J. H. Troxler, the Kate McIntyre Dunn family in memory of Kate McIntyre Dunn, the E. F. Lowe family in memory of Anne S. and E. F. Lowe, the Henry R. and Lee Fox family in memory of Henry and Lee Fox Ireland; a window was given by the W. M. Taylor Bible Class, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Emerson, and Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Williams.

During the ministry of the present pastor, other blessings have come our way through a concerted effort on the part of those who love the church and have endeavored to give to it their time, talents, and gifts. We should not, we must not glory in our attainments, but we can look upon them as tools that we might use to do our Lord's work and promote His great and wonderful Kingdom on earth. What our needs are we merely try in our human way to attain them that we might work more effectively. In some ways, we have done just this and in other ways we might even say that they were luxuries, but may it be that we had the motive only of Glorifying and Praising God.

Since July, 1958, it has been our privilege to complete the kitchen that was started at the time the new unit was constructed. We have built shelves, tiled the floor, purchased some dishes for the use of those who wanted to have socials or suppers. Mr. Frank Welch gave us an electric refrigerator. Many of the Church School rooms have been painted, new rugs placed on the floors, new curtains at the windows, coat racks for the children's rooms, tables and chairs purchased for the children, and other things added for convenience sake. The pastor's study has been adequately furnished for efficient service. Mr. Wake Spoon built book shelves and made a table for the mimeograph machine. He also paid to have some tile placed on the floor. The church study has been equipped to do the work of the church. The Methodist Men's Club was officially organized on June 6, 1958, with Mr. J. Richard Dodson as its first president and leader. The Primary and Senior MYF purchased a cross and placed it on the altar to the greater Glory of God and in honor of Mr. W. M. Taylor, who has been a pillar of the church for over sixty years. Also in 1958, the church was offered two acres of land which is located directly in front of the church, and which included the old Hub Store which for years was a landmark in this area. Mr. Willard Sawyer made the motion that this offer be accepted. The church purchased this property for a sum of \$2,000 which was paid for by contributions and by a Brunswick-Stew held by the Methodist Men's Club and the W.S.C.S.

And now the future. During the conference year of 1959-1960, the church called Fairview is entering again into a program of renovation. The renovation of 1952 has made the renovating program of 1960 much easier. The plans are to renovate the inside of the sanctuary, giving it a complete overhauling. The renovating program



was approved by the Official Board which appointed a committee composed of the following: Harold Hill, Chairman, John L. Amick, Gilmer Jones, Mrs. Pearl Troxler, and J. D. Dodson. At this writing, plans have been completed and are ready to be approved by the Official Board and the members of the church.

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS BY WRITER

The church called Fairview has always been an evangelistic church. It's whole life has been dependent on this fact and it would never have come as far as it has had it not been a church wholly reliant upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we find it in our Holy Bible. If it grows in the future it will be because they have kept this evangelistic spirit. As I have been privileged to talk with the older members of this church and some of the pastors who served this church and read the reports of others, I found that this church has had some of the most outstanding evangelists and preachers in North Carolina and in the United States to bring them the gospel of salvation. It was told to me by Rev. J. H. Abernethy and Mr. W. M. Rich agreed that a Rev. G. F. Milloway, who once served the Methodist Church in Graham, held nineteen consecutive revivals over a period of nineteen years here at Fairview. To have a spirit of evangelism is to breathe the true spirit of Methodism.

The financial contributions of the members of the church called Fairview has been progressively heartening. In 1939, the salary of the pastor was reported at \$300.00; the total giving for the year being \$804.00. From 1939 to 1960, the salary has ranged from \$300 to \$4,500 with the years in between being progressively better. The largest salary increases were given in 1948, jumping from \$888 to \$1,500 and in 1951, jumping from \$1,800 to \$3,000. The 1940-41 Conference year reports the lowest total giving of the period between 1939 and 1960, the figure being \$710. The largest amount was given in 1951-52 when a total of \$18,738, the second total being the following year with \$17,685. During the period between 1939 and 1959, the Fairview Church members and friends have given to the work of the church a total of \$125,196, \$40,296 of which was paid for Pastoral Administration.

The membership of the church called Fairview has been such that it has, through the years, fluctuated up and down. Fairview has always been supported with a good size membership in comparison to other churches its size. Due to the fact that we have statistical data only from 1939, it is impossible to give comparative figures through the years. In 1939, the membership was 136. Today the membership is recorded in the Conference Journal at 276. This means that in twenty years Fairview has increased a total of 140, or 102.9%. Also during this twenty year period, Fairview lost 169 members by transfer to other Methodist Churches, or to other denominations, or by death. In twenty years, Fairview has received a total of 309 persons into the fellowship of the church.

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PREACHERS SERVING FAIRVIEW METHODIST CHURCH

AT THE CHURCH BEFORE IT WAS ORGANIZED AS A METHODIST CHURCH: A. O. Cox, 1882-1883

THE FAIRVIEW METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH: The Haw River Circuit - J. W. Heath, 1883-1886; R. R. Michaux, 1886-1887; W. C. Kinnett, 1887-1889 (T. T. Ferree, Associate); R. H. Wills, 1889-1891; A. W. Lineberry, 1891-1892. The Burlington Mission - C. A. Pickins, 1892-1893; W. A. Bunch, 1893-1894. The Gibsonville Mission - A. W. Lineberry, 1894-1897; W. W. Amick, 1897-1898; E. G. Lowdermilk, 1898-1900; W. L. Harris, 1900-1901; W. C. Lassiter, 1901-1902; N. G. Bethea, 1902-1906. The Fairview Circuit - L. F. McCulloch, 1906-1908; D. A. Braswell, 1908-1910. Fairview-Gibsonville Circuit - J. A. Ledbetter, 1910-1911; J. R. Hutton, 1911-1914. Fairview Circuit - J. W. Self, 1914-1915; J. H. Bowman, 1915-1919; W. B. Surratt, 1919-1920. Gibsonville Circuit - J. H. Abernethy, 1920-1922. Fairview Station - C. J. Edwards, 1922-1923; J. H. Bowman, 1923-1924; C. G. Iseley, 1924-1926. Fairview-Glen Raven Circuit - T. A. Williams, 1926-1928; W. H. Neese, 1928-1929. Fairview Station - O. B. Williams, 1929-1930. Glen Raven Circuit - A. D. Shelton, 1930-1931; J. P. Pegg, 1931-1935; R. S. Troxler, 1935-1938, J. F. Goble, 1938-1940.

THE NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH (Unification date: May 10, 1939):  
THE DURHAM DISTRICT - The Burlington Circuit - M. C. Ellerbe, 1940-1942; Donald Durham, 1942-1944; J. W. Reynolds, 1944-1945; K. M. Thomas, 1945-1948. The Fairview Methodist Station - C. M. Fogleman, 1948-1952; Maurice Harrell, 1952-1953; Richard Roberson, 1953-; D. M. Tyson, 1953-1954. THE BURLINGTON DISTRICT - The Fairview Methodist Church Station - D. M. Tyson, 1954-1957; E. E. Whitley, 1957 -

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LOCAL MEN WHO ENTERED THE MINISTRY

R. S. Troxler - 1910-1938--He died serving the Glen Raven Circuit.  
Lindly Gerringer

Lester Stanley- 1947      Received his Local Preacher's license. Lester is now preaching in the Congregational Christian Church.

Jimmy Stanford- 1956      His first charge was Harrell's Store in the Goldsboro District.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE FAIRVIEW CHURCH

Mr. and Mrs. Berry Davidson, Mr. B. M. Boles, Mr. A. D. Cox, Mr. John H. Cox, Mr. A. E. Gates, Mrs. A. E. Gates, Mr. Berry Cates, Mr. Henry R. Ireland, Mrs. Henry R. Ireland, Mr. Jim Jones, Mr. Bill Swin, Mr. W. S. Bennett, Mrs. W. S. Bennett, Mrs. J. F. Barber, Mr. P. P. Troxler, Mrs. P. P. Troxler, Mr. Bud Hunter, Mr. Robert Lucas, and Mrs. Robert Lucas.

Others known to be members in the early 20th Century (some of whom may have been charter members): Mr. W. M. Taylor, Mr. J. H. Troxler, Sarah McCulloch, Maud Cole, J. A. Fowler, W. W. Oakes, Mrs. W. W. Oakes, Miss Sallie Ratcliffe, Mrs. R. A. Thompson, R. A. Thompson, Mr. T. E. Ratcliffe, Miss Minnie Smith, Miss Mystic Clark, J. B. Horton, Frank Ratcliffe, Lindley Gerringer, Roy Brownie, Margaret Stovall, Mamie Younger, James Motley, Berry Bennett, Thomas Cheek, Mary Browning, Bessie Wagoner, C. O. Smith, J. A. Hunter, Mrs. J. L. Kernodle (Dr. Kernodle's wife), T. B. Clark, and P. W. Michaels.

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## HISTORY

### FIRST METHODIST CHURCH Graham, North Carolina

The Graham Methodist Episcopal Church South was organized July 12, 1896, by Rev. J. A. Daily in the Alamance County Courthouse where services were held until a building was constructed on North Main Street in 1897. The following names were put on the church roll as charter members, eight at the first meeting and the others added during the year 1896:

M. F. Crawford, July 12, 1896 C; Mrs. M. F. Crawford, July 12, 1896 C; Callie Gray, July 12, 1896 C; Mrs. A. R. Howland, July 12, 1896 C; Miss Tillie Howland, July 12, 1896 C; Mrs. Lizzie Howland Montgomery, July 12, 1896 C; J. D. Vaughn, July 12, 1896 C; Mrs. J. D. Vaughn, July 12, 1896 C; Susan Revis, September 13, 1896 C; Lillie Revis, September 13, 1896 C; Julia Burke Bright, October 25, 1896 C; Annie Elmore, October 25, 1896 V; Sallie Farrell, October 25, 1896 V; Lindo Norwood, October 25, 1896 V; Thomas Oakes, October 25, 1896 V; Ada Shields, October 25, 1896 V; Alex Trogon, October 25, 1896 V; James Underwood, October 25, 1896 V; Rocita J. Underwood, October 25, 1896 C.

On November 18, 1912, during the pastorate of Rev. R. G. L. Edwards, the building burned and the present building was constructed immediately, with the first service held at 11:00 A.M. on March 22, 1914. While Rev. H. E. Meyers was pastor in 1916 and 1917 the indebtedness was paid and the building dedicated. The present parsonage was purchased in 1920 while Rev. C. Thrift was pastor.

During the pastorate of Rev. G. M. Daniel 1920-1924, a hut was built which gave to the church much needed space for its activities.

While Rev. C. F. Heath was serving the church (1932-36) the debt on the street paving on each side of the church was paid.

During May and June of 1938 while Rev. B. O. Merritt was pastor, the parsonage was remodeled.

The following served as Sunday School Superintendents: Frank Wilson, J. W. Boone, A. J. Thompson, W. B. Green, I. I. Henderson, L. C. Allen, and W. D. Barrett.

The Missionary Society was organized on February 8, 1919, with the following charter members: Mrs. C. H. Phillips, President; Mrs. W. B. Green, Mrs. W. T. Ezell, Mrs. J. N. Taylor, Mrs. W. E. Thompson, Mrs. J. D. Lee, Mrs. T. C. Moon, Mrs. W. L. Andrews, Mrs. Carlene Fowler, Misses Mary Phillips, Fannie Spoon, Margaret Robinson, Lillie Hannah and Fannie Richardson.

Twenty-five preachers served this church from its organization until unification in 1939. They included: Rev. J. A. Daily, 1896-1898; Rev. B. C. Thompson, 1898-1900; Rev. G. R. Rood, 1900-1901; Rev. G. O. Green, 1901-1902. Rev. G. O. Green died September 2, 1902 while on this work and W. B. Green, local preacher, filled out his brother's year and returned for the year 1903; Rev. C. M. Lance, 1903-1905; Rev. G. D. Langston, 1905-1906; Rev. W. F. Sanford, 1906-1908; Rev. T. G. Vickers, 1908-1911; Rev. R. G. L. Edwards, 1911-1914; Rev. C. M. Grant, 1914-1915; Rev. H. E. Meyers, 1915-1917; Rev. D. E. Earnhardt, 1917-March 26, 1918 when he left for Army; Rev. W. G. McFarland, 3/26/1918-12/26/1918; Rev. J. R. Edwards, 1918-1919; Rev. C. T. Thrift, 1919-1920, Rev. G. M. Daniel, 1920-1924; Rev. G. W. Starling, 1924-1927; Rev. A. C. Holler, 1927-1929; Rev. J. W. Dimette, 1929-1930; Rev. J. L. Rowland, 1930-1931; Rev. Garfield Evans, 1931-1932; Rev. C. F. Heath, 1932-1936; Rev. J. A. Martin, 1936-1937, Rev. B. O. Merritt, 1937-1939.



# History - First Methodist Church of Graham (Cont'd.)

The following Presiding Elders served this church from its organization until unification in 1939: Rev. E. A. Yates, 1896-1900; Rev. W. H. Moore, 1901-1902; Rev. J. T. Gibbs, 1902-1906; Rev. J. B. Hurley, 1906-1909, Rev. R. C. Beamon, 1909-1914; Rev. W. M. North, 1914-1915; Rev. J. L. Cunningham, 1915-1917; Rev. J. C. Wooten, 1917-1919; Rev. M. T. Plyler, 1919-1923; Rev. Mike Bradshaw, 1923-1927; Rev. J. C. Wooten, 1927-1932; Rev. H. C. Smith, 1932-1935; Rev. H. B. Porter, 1935-1938; Rev. A. J. Hobbs, 1938-1942.

These were the Bishops: Rev. Alpheus Wilson, 1896-1897; Rev. Robert W. Hargrove, 1897-1898; Rev. Oscar P. Fitzgerald, 1898-1899; Rev. Eugene R. Hendrix, 1899-1900; Rev. Henry C. Morrison, 1900-1901; Rev. Robert Hargrove, 1901-1902; Rev. A. Cole Smith, 1902-1905; Rev. Warren A. Candler, 1903-1905; Rev. Alpheus Wilson, 1905-1907; Rev. Charles B. Galloway, 1907-1908; Rev. Alpheus Wilson, 1908-1910; Rev. Eugene R. Hendrix, 1910-1911; Rev. E. E. Hoss, 1911-1912; Rev. Collins Denny, 1912-1913; Rev. J. H. McClay, 1913-1914; Rev. R. G. Waterhouse, 1914-1915; Rev. John C. Kilgo, 1915-1917; Rev. Warren A. Candler, 1917-1918; Rev. W. V. Dalington, 1918-1922; Rev. Collins Denny, 1922-1926; Rev. Edwin D. Monfon, 1926-1934; Rev. Paul B. Kern, 1934-1937; Rev. Clare Purcell, 1937-1939; Rev. W. W. Peele, 1939-1940.

The Graham Methodist Protestant Church was organized on July 3, 1903, at the home of Dr. W. R. Goley by Rev. G. F. Milloway. The following were the twelve charter members: Dr. W. R. Goley, Mrs. W. R. Goley, Miss Margaret Goley, W. C. Hornaday, W. T. Bain, Mrs. W. T. Bain, Mrs. Rachel Garrett, Mrs. Sara C. Shoe, W. R. Wilson, Mrs. W. R. Wilson, Mrs. Savannah Henderson, Mrs. W. C. Hornaday. Services were held in the Courthouse until a church building was erected near the Roller Mill back of the Graham Elementary School during the pastorate of Rev. C. H. Whitaker. The first Sunday School service was held the first Sunday in April, 1908, at the time the Sunday School was organized and Mr. W. M. Ray was made the superintendent. Others who served as superintendents were: R. R. Bain, H. M. Rogers, J. S. Cook, J. L. Amick, P. B. Core, C. P. Holt, Phil Dixon, Don S. Holt, C. A. Cates, Ernest Kirkman.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized on January 4, 1912, at the home of the pastor, Rev. George L. Curry, with the following charter members: Mrs. George L. Curry, President; Mrs. S. S. (Glenn) Holt, Vice President; Miss Boonie Coble, Secretary; Mrs. W. R. Goley, Treasurer; Mrs. M. J. Neese, Mrs. Isaac Holt, Mrs. John Anglin, Miss Pearl Neese, Miss Lola Ezell, Mrs. Clara Steele, Mrs. James Black, Miss Fannie Ray, Miss Rebecca Brown, Miss Bessie Tinnin, and Miss Bell Brown.

This organization functioned as the Ladies' Aid Society until the late 1920's when the name was changed to the Woman's Auxiliary and continued until unification.

In 1916 while Rev. O. B. Williams was pastor a more desirable lot was purchased on North Main Street and the church building moved to that location. During the pastorate of Rev. R. S. Troxler, Sunday School rooms were added to the church at a cost of \$3,500.00.

During the pastorate of Rev. C. L. Spencer in the year 1922, a lot was purchased adjoining the church lot on the north for a parsonage at the cost of \$500.00.

At the conference in Burlington in 1921 this church was made a station. These are the preachers who served this church from its organization until unification: Rev. G. F. Milloway, 1903-1907; Rev. C. H. Whitaker, 1907-1908; Rev. J. R. Hutton, 1908-1909; Rev. A. H. Bryans, 1909-1910; Rev. G. L. Curry, 1910-1913; Rev. O. B. Williams, 1913-1916; Rev. R. S. Troxler, 1916-1921; Rev. J. Clyde Auman, 1921 (Rev. Auman went from this Charge to Japan as a Missionary); Rev. C. L. Spencer, 1922-1923; Rev. E. A. Bingham, 1923-1924; Rev. D. R. Williams, 1924-1928; Rev. J. F. Minnis, 1928-1930; Rev. J. C. Auman, 1930-1935; Rev. H. F. Surratt, 1935-1939.



# History - First Methodist Church of Graham (Cont'd.)

The following were Conference Presidents until the churches were united: Rev. T. M. Johnson, 1902-1907; Rev. W. E. Swain, 1907-1912; Rev. C. A. Cecil, 1912-1915; Rev. J. W. Holmes, 1915-1917; Rev. R. M. Andrews, 1917-1922; Rev. A. G. Dixon, 1922-1927; Rev. S. W. Taylor, 1927-1932; and Rev. J. E. Pritchard, 1932-1939.

In 1939 when the three Methodist churches were united and the North Carolina Conference met in November, the Rev. J. R. Edwards was sent to the Graham Methodist Church. The former Methodist Protestant Church having no parsonage building, their furniture was moved into the former M. E. Parsonage which was retained as the home of the pastor.

W. E. Thompson was superintendent of the Sunday School from the unification in 1939 until his death in 1946 when L. H. Gunter succeeded him. Walter B. Graham became the superintendent in 1959.

On Monday, September 16, 1940, at 7:30 P.M. members of the Minnie P. Cates Missionary Society of the former M. E. Church South and the Woman's Auxiliary of the Methodist Protestant Church met in the auditorium of this church to dissolve the two organizations and form the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the new organization for women of the new Methodist Church. Mrs. C. D. Brittan was elected President; Mrs. J. H. McPherson, Vice President; Mrs. Charles Cates, Recording Secretary; Mrs. W. B. Green, Treasurer; Mrs. W. E. Thompson, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. S. S. (Josephine) Holt, Secretary of Missionary Education; Mrs. Heenan Hughes, Secretary of Christian Social Relations and L. C. A.; Mrs. Percy Amick, Secretary of Supplies; Miss Gladys Amick, Secretary of Student Work; Mrs. Franz Pritchett, Secretary of Young Girls Work; and Mrs. A. C. Wilkinson, Secretary of Literature and Publications.

Charter members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service: Mrs. C. L. Ezell, Mrs. Heenan Hughes, Mrs. E. F. Steele, Mrs. H. M. Rogers, Mrs. T. C. Moon, Mrs. W. B. Green, Mrs. C. D. Isley, Mrs. W. T. Ezell, Mrs. W. L. Andrews, Mrs. W. Ernest Thompson, Mrs. J. H. McPherson, Mrs. W. T. Hall, Mrs. J. M. Whittemore, Mrs. P. H. Amick, Mrs. J. R. Edwards, Mrs. R. N. Cook, Mrs. Aubrey B. Windham, Mrs. E. H. Gilliam, Mrs. P. E. Cheek, Mrs. Mary Ward, Mrs. T. R. Harden, Mrs. James S. Bowman, Mrs. J. M. Buckner, Mrs. James S. Cook, Mrs. Foust Thompson, Mrs. W. T. Martin, Sr., Mrs. W. A. Bradshaw, Mrs. A. C. Wilkerson, Mrs. A. R. Henderson, Mrs. Eli Thompson, Mrs. George Stafford, Mrs. S. S. Holt (Josephine), Mrs. W. L. Horne, Mrs. C. B. Moore, Mrs. C. D. Brittan, Mrs. J. H. Eason, Miss Annie Turner, Miss Gladys Amick, Mrs. J. D. Linens, Mrs. L. B. Bradshaw, Mrs. Zollie Foster, Mrs. Ernest Brummitt, Miss Rachel Youngblood, Mrs. S. E. Freeze, Mrs. Charles A. Cates, Mrs. J. M. Hughes, Mrs. L. W. Cheek, Mrs. A. P. Williams, Mrs. J. B. Taylor, Mrs. D. R. Williams, Mrs. I. I. Henderson, Mrs. J. L. Amick, Miss Lizabel Foust, Mrs. Franz Pritchette, Mrs. C. D. Holt, Mrs. W. W. Evans, Mrs. Charles Reavis, Mrs. C. P. Reavis, Mrs. C. C. Burke, Miss Louise Buckner, Miss Rachel Williams, and Mrs. W. R. Goley. These joined to September 23, 1940, end of Charter period.

In 1943 the hut from the former M. P. Church was moved to the former M. C. Church lot and repairs made on both huts at a cost of \$2,000.00, making them adequate for housing the young people in the Church School, thereby enabling the Sunday School to be held in one place.

The former Methodist Protestant Church building was sold to Foster Hughes and Heenan Holt on May 20, 1948, for \$1,000.00 and moved from the lot. On May 31, 1932, the lot was sold to Ed Love and C. M. Euliss for \$4,000.00.

The members of this united church, as it began to grow both in spirit and in





History - First Methodist Church of Graham (Cont'd.)

number, saw the need in the near future of a new and more adequate plant in which to carry on its work in the service of God and for the betterment of the community. Thus, on February 20, 1944, a fund was started for the new building. Since the lot on which the present church stands is too small for the new plant the Trustees began looking around for a new location while Rev. O. L. Hathway was pastor. Dr. W. C. Goley should be given much credit for the success in the purchase of the beautiful lot on the corner of North Main Street and Albright Avenue from Mr. H. G. McElroy and Mrs. F. W. Moore on September 30, 1949, at the cost of \$25,000 and on June 23, 1952, from the Graham Christian Church at \$6,750.00. On March 27, 1953, the old residence and Christian Church building on the lot were sold to A. N. Maness for the sum of \$750.00.

During the pastorate of Rev. O. L. Hathway (1946-1951), discussion regarding the building of the new church was begun; however, no definite plans were made. In 1952 during the first year Rev. J. H. Lanning served as pastor, two committees were appointed to formulate building plans.

Planning and Steering Committee: Talton M. Johnson, Chairman, Mrs. Alvis R. Wilson, Secretary, Dr. Clinton S. Crissman, Chairman of Board; Layton H. Gunter, Superintendent of Sunday School; Dr. W. C. Goley, Mrs. Charles A. Cates, L. T. Jarmon, and ex officio members, I. I. Henderson, Chairman of Board of Trustees, and J. H. Lanning, Pastor.

Building Finance Committee: L. T. Jarman, Chairman; Holt Henderson, Secretary; Fred Isley, Mrs. Zollie Foster, and ex officio members T. M. Johnson and J. H. Lanning, and C. A. Thompson, Building Fund Treasurer.

Mr. Harold D. Wagoner of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was employed as architect, and during the years 1952-1954 through the diligent and untiring efforts of Mr. Lanning, working with the committees--definite plans were decided upon, bids were submitted, with Mitchell Construction Company of Burlington presenting the lowest bid.

There was a delay of several months in the building program because of lack of funds to begin the construction work, during which time every effort was made to collect all the money possible.

The Conference year of 1954 came to a close and Rev. T. J. Whitehead was sent to Graham to replace Rev. Lanning who went to Plymouth.

As time passed and membership grew in number, the people felt that work on the new church must be started as soon as possible and plans were completed for the beginning of the new church. August 7, 1955, was a day never to be forgotten by the people who constitute the First Methodist Church of Graham, because it was the day of the Groundbreaking Service.

At 5:00 P.M. about three hundred eager and excited, as well as proud Methodists and townspeople gathered on the church lot for the groundbreaking ceremony after which a picnic supper was spread on the tables under the beautiful trees and enjoyed by all present.

During the week following the groundbreaking the contractors, Mitchell Construction Company, began the actual building work. On the Sunday of the groundbreaking service the money in the Building Fund amounted to over \$100,000.00.



History - First Methodist Church of Graham (Cont'd.)

These two churches, before they were united and the church after unification have had six men to enter the ministry: C. A. Jones, John D. Lee, Jr., Junius Neese, W. E. Howard, William Cheek, and Paul Burn.

On October 9, 1955, at 3:00 P.M. the following items were enclosed in the cornerstone laying service: 1 copy of THE BIBLE, 1 copy of THE METHODIST DISCIPLINE (1952), 1 copy of THE METHODIST HYMNAL, 1 copy of THE BOOK OF WORSHIP, 1 copy of The History of the Methodist Church of Graham, compiled by Mrs. W. B. Green, 1 copy of pictures of the groundbreaking ceremony, and 1 copy of the Original Charter of the Boy Scout Troop #41.

Ministers who have served the First Methodist Church of Graham beginning in 1939 were: Rev. J. R. Edwards, 1939-1941; Rev. J. J. Boone, 1941-1946; Rev. O. L. Hathway, 1946-1951; Rev. J. H. Lanning, 1951-1954; Rev. T. J. Whitehead, 1954 and is pastor at the present date (1961).

District Superintendents have included: Rev. A. J. Hobbs, 1939-1942; Rev. F. S. Love, 1942-1944; Rev. H. C. Smith, 1944-1948; Rev. E. L. Hillman, 1948-1953; Rev. W. L. Clegg, 1953-1954.

At Conference in 1954 the Burlington District was formed and Rev. A. P. Brantley was sent as Superintendent to this work, being succeeded in 1960 by Dr. W. L. Clegg.

Bishops have included: W. W. Peele, 1939; Clare Purcell, 1940-1943; W. W. Peele, 1944-1950; Paul Neff Garber, 1950, and Bishop Garber is our present Bishop (1961).







H I S T O R Y  
(1961)

FRIENDSHIP METHODIST CHURCH  
Route #6  
Burlington, North Carolina

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Rev. J. E. Staton, Pastor

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Prepared  
By

Cleta P. Murray

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HISTORY  
Friendship Methodist Church  
By  
Cleta P. Murray  
1961

Friendship Methodist Church was organized in 1834 in Fogleman's (or Orange) Schoolhouse, which stood a short distance south of the present Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church. This organization took place to accommodate a few families who found the distance to Mt. Hermon Methodist Protestant Church too far for them to attend there.

The site was on the land of George Fogleman in Orange County and was known as Fogleman's Camp Ground and in due time it became part of the Orange Circuit which embraced churches in Orange, Chatham, and Guilford Counties. Rev. James H. Christie was the first pastor, followed by Rev. Alson Gray.

From the minutes of the Quarterly Conference of Orange Circuit, held at Salem Church, April 30, 1836, it is learned that the pastor filled appointments at 20 preaching places each month, with one or two days of rest each week. Some of these places were not then church organizations, and a few never became churches.

Very little is known about the early church and its members. John Johnson and wife, Elizabeth Fogleman Johnson and Solomon Albright and wife, Sallie Fogleman Albright, were among the first members. Worship was held in the schoolhouse for several years, but there is no record of just how long it was until the church was moved to the present site.

Jacob Isley, who lived on land adjoining Christian Isley's plantation, gave a log building for a church. Christian Isley gave permission to move the building to a site on his land just to the rear of the present church, and worship was held in there until 1856 when Christian Isley gave to Joel A. Isley, George Johnson, and Leonard Isley, trustees of Friendship Church, a deed for the present church lot.

A new church was built, and the old log building was moved back on the same farm and used for a barn. At first, a portion of the church was partitioned off in the rear for the slaves. There were slaves' names on the old church book which has been lost or destroyed. One name read, "Bessie Albright, slave of G. M. Albright."

The church at first witnessed a very slow growth, as the early settlers of the community belonged to the Lutheran and German Reformed Churches. The older people were slow to change their religious faith, and therefore, the newly organized church had to depend on the next generation for members. When the new church was built in 1856, the members came from these families: Albright, Johnson, Tinnin, Isley, Sharpe, Graves, and Garrett.

For a few years before and immediately following the Civil War, school sessions were held every two years in Friendship Church building. In the intervening years the school was held in the Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church building not far distant. During the years 1870-1880, every session of school was held at Friendship until Fairfield School was established in a new log building on which is now Highway 49, near Mt. Pleasant Church road.

The Orange Circuit was divided in 1861, and Alamance Circuit was formed with Friendship becoming a part of it. There were eight churches on the circuit, Bethel, Center, Concord, Sapling Ridge, Flint Ridge, Rock Creek, Mt. Hermon, and Friendship. One pastor served all eight churches by having appointments on Saturdays for part of the churches. Camp meetings were held at most of these churches from early days, and



Friendship began camp meetings a few years prior to the Civil War and continued until 1872, when the last of these religious gatherings was held. Several families of the Friendship members had their log shelters on the grounds back of the church.

The Mt. Hermon Circuit was organized from the Alamance Circuit in 1891. Rev. J. N. Garrett was pastor of four churches: Mr. Hermon, Bellemont, Haw River, and Friendship. Some years later Cedar Cliff was added and Haw River changed. This arrangement continued until 1954 when Friendship became self-supporting and called a full-time pastor.

The early members of Friendship were buried at Mt. Hermon Methodist and at St. Paul's Lutheran Churches. It was not until 1881 that a cemetery was begun at Friendship, and in that year a child of L. L. Patterson was buried there. In the next year, 1882, there followed several burials, one of which was Christian Isley, giver of the land for the church and cemetery. More land for the cemetery was given by Dr. H. M. Patterson in 1942; and in 1958, a like donation was made by his son, Dr. G. G. Patterson.

The church has a substantial fund for the upkeep of the cemetery. This is governed by a committee. John Hoffman, by will, left \$500 for a cemetery fund; Swana Patterson Hoffman added \$500 to this amount, and Mrs. D. I. Offman later willed \$100 to this original fund. Dr. H. M. Patterson, at his death in 1956, left \$1,000 by will to the trustees of Friendship Methodist Church, and the interest on both funds goes for the upkeep of the cemetery.

A parsonage was built about 1908. Three pastors who occupied it were: Rev. J. A. Burgess, Rev. E. G. Lowdermilk, and Rev. Cary Whittaker. For several years the building was not used as a parsonage, and finally it was sold. About 1934, a house and lot was bought on Highway 49 from Mr. and Mrs. Lester Watkins and remodeled for a parsonage for the Mt. Hermon Charge. This served until 1954 when Friendship became self-supporting and built a new parsonage near the church at a cost of \$16,500. The land on which this parsonage was built was donated by Robert C. Moser and wife, Elia Isley Moser.

The present church was built in 1911 at a cost of \$5,000. Rev. J. A. Burgess was pastor. The building committee was composed of George W. Patterson, T. E. Sharpe, Leonard L. Patterson, Jasper Albright, and John Tinnin. The building was of cement-block construction. The blocks were made on the church lot, using native sand and much of the labor was given by members. When finished, this building was considered one of the nicest churches in rural Alamance County. It has a large and beautiful stained glass window at the front. This was given by Joel Sharpe and wife, Sarah Sharpe, at a cost of \$600, in memory of their only child, Permelia Sharpe Keck. Sunday school rooms of brick construction were added in 1929.

The first Sunday school was organized March 12, 1871. Rev. J. W. Heath was pastor but much credit went to Mrs. Eliza Lamb Isley who, at that time was teaching a session of public school in the church building. Mrs. Isley was an excellent teacher and her influence for good was felt in the community. Mr. James P. Sharpe was the first superintendent, with Mrs. Isley as his assistant. The minutes of the first meeting show that due to unfavorable weather, only twenty pupils were present. This number steadily increased until there were thirty-seven men and thirty-nine women, a total of seventy-six by the month of July. The first recorded list of teachers was J. P. Sharpe, Barbara Garrett, John M. Tinnin, Maria Garret, Almeda B. Moser, and Nancy Jane Tinnin. Miss Queen Patterson and Miss Nancy Jane Tinnin helped with the singing for the newly organized school and later J. M. Albright served as choir-leader and superintendent for many years. An organ was bought about 1901, with Miss Myrtle Stuart as the first organist, followed by Miss Daisy Page, who served for several years. In



### Friendship Methodist Church - 3

1914 a new organ was purchased but was later replaced by a piano. Now a Hammond organ, gift of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Patterson, of Burlington, is used. The church began the use of regular church hymnals in 1902, and practically every family owned a copy of "The Methodist Protestant Church Hymnal."

About 1947 the church undertook a remodeling program. Ralph Braxton, L. L. Isley, and Fred Ingle were the members of a building committee, and the church received a donation of \$1,000 from the Duke Foundation to aid in the work being done at that time.

In 1948, it was decided to remove all the clear glass windows and replace them with memorials to the following twelve families: G. W. and Mattie A. Patterson; W. A. and Rosetta T. Tinnin and family; Thos. E. and Mary N. Sharpe; W. A. and Julia N. Patterson; W. A. and Mattie Moser Johnson; Lacy A. and Callie A. Isley; William M. and Elizabeth I. Graves; Thomas F. and Vessie I. Overman; Lemuel L. and Callie C. Isley; J. G. Holt and family; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Allred; and Mr. and Mrs. Moody Isley. The windows were gifts from these twelve families.

In 1950, Dr. H. M. Patterson and Swana Patterson Hoffman erected a community building on the grounds adjoining the church lot. This building of brick construction, 30 x 60 feet, is used for church and community activities.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society began its work at Friendship in August, 1922. Mrs. J. A. Burgess and Mrs. W. L. Spoon of Mt. Pleasant Church, were responsible for the organization. There were 12 charter members with Mrs. Whitney Isley as first president, and Mrs. Clela Murray as secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Lydia Albright Kernodle of Burlington, who was a former member of Friendship, organized the first Woman's Home Mission Society. This took place at the church during the summer of 1925. Mrs. D. I. Offman served as first president and Miss Mae Patterson as secretary-treasurer. There were 27 charter members.

These two societies began working together and were merged into the Woman's Missionary Society. Later in 1939, it became known as the Woman's Society of Christian Service, and now it has 74 members.

The unification of the Methodist Protestant and Methodist Episcopal churches came about 1939. Friendship then became known as a Methodist church.

This church has furnished seven men for the ministry: T. M. Johnson, L. L. Albright, W. M. Loy, O. C. Loy, C. G. Isley, J. C. Loy, K. G. Holt.

One of these men, Rev. T. M. Johnson, D.D., grandson of John Johnson, one of the founders of the church, became very prominent in the Methodist Protestant Church. After receiving his education at Friendship Academy, Western Maryland College, and Westminster Theological Seminary, he began his pastoral work at Henderson, N. C. in 1893. He became president of the N. C. Annual Conference, serving four years, 1903-1907. Dr. Johnson was considered one of the best and most beloved pastors of the Methodist Protestant Church. He married Miss Mary Weatherly of Greensboro. This home was blessed with five children, three of whom are living: Mrs. Pomona Amick of Burlington; Talton M. Johnson of Graham, and Mrs. Mary Ward Harris of Alexandria, Virginia. Dr. Johnson served 47 years in the ministry, retiring in 1940.

Friendship has sent one missionary to the foreign field, Rev. L. L. Albright, grandson of Solomon Albright, one of the founders of the church, gave five years to missionary work in Japan. The following item is taken from the Annual Report of



## Friendship Methodist Church - 4

The Board of Home and Foreign Missions of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1887: "At the recent session of the board, Rev. L. L. Albright, of North Carolina, was appointed a missionary to Japan and started July 1, 1886, for Yokohama where he is to assist in the missionary work of that station, until his services are needed by brother Klein at Nagoya." It was during this first year that he was duly ordained as an Elder in Yokohama. His wife, who before marriage was Miss Madge Slaughter, joined him in the second year, and together they worked four more years at Nagoya. After his return, he was pastor of the Methodist Protestant Church at Winston-Salem. Rev. Albright received his education at Friendship Academy, Western Maryland College, and Westminster Theological Seminary.

In 1877, the Western North Carolina Conference was organized from the Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church and met separately for two years only. The second session of the Western Conference was held at Friendship Church on the Alamance Circuit on December 3-9, 1879. Rev. A. M. Lowe was president of Conference, and Rev. W. W. Amick was pastor. At this time, Alamance Circuit had eight churches with 820 members. Six of the churches, including Friendship, had Sunday schools.

Friendship community was an educational center dating from the Civil War until 1928, when the last school session was held at that place. It is now a part of E. M. Holt school, three miles distant. Friendship Church is located in south-western Alamance County on the Patterson Mill Road, near Highway 49, and now has a membership of 361.

Pastors who have served the church include:

James H. Cristie, 1834	J. N. Garrett, 1890-1892
Alson Gray	W. F. McDowell, 1892-1894
Alexander Albright	W. F. Ashburn, 1894-1897
John Hinshaw	W. E. Swain, 1897-1903
John Martin	E. A. Plyler, 1903-1905
Thos. L. Carter	J. H. Bowman, 1905-1907
H. T. Weatherly	O. P. Routh, 1907-1908
R. R. Prather	J. A. Burgess, 1908-1911
Daniel W. Thompson	E. G. Lowdermilk, 1911-1913
W. J. Ogburn	C. H. Whittaker, 1913-1915
John C. Forbis	J. A. Burgess, 1915-1919
T. H. Peagram	J. H. Bowman, 1919-1920
J. W. Heath, 1858-1860	A. O. Lindley, 1920-1924
A. W. Lineberry, 1864	W. F. Ashburn, 1924-1926
J. W. Heath, 1866	J. E. Carroll, 1926-1931
J. W. Heath, 1869-1872	L. E. Mabry, 1931-1934
C. F. Harris, 1872-1873	T. H. Whitehead, 1934-1936
W. W. Amick, 1873-1876	J. R. Anderson, 1936-1939
W. C. Kennett, 1876-1877	R. L. Hethcox, 1939-1941
W. W. Amick, 1877-1879	W. B. Cotton, 1941-1945
C. F. Harris, 1879-1882	H. H. Cash, 1945-1947
John H. Totten, 1882-1883	R. Z. Newton, 1947-1953
G. W. Bowman, 1883-1885	R. E. Whitely, 1953-July, 1954
J. N. Garrett, 1885-1886	Robert Wallace, July, 1954-July, 1958
W. W. Amick, 1886-1890	Earl R. Meekins, July, 1958-July, 1961
	Rev. J. E. Staton, July, 1961









H I S T O R Y

FRONT STREET METHODIST CHURCH

Burlington, North Carolina

\*\*\*\*\*

Rev. Leon Russell, Pastor

\*\*\*\*\*

Prepared

By

Dr. Edgar B. Fisher

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HISTORY  
Front Street Methodist Church  
Burlington, N. C.  
By  
Dr. Edgar B. Fisher, Pastor  
1960

Front Street Methodist Church was organized in 1888. The first church, a small rectangular red brick building, was built in 1888 on or very near the present site. At that time there were 84 names on the church roll and 50 members in the Sunday School. Prior to 1888, worship services were held in old Union Chapel Building near Fisher Street School.

The dedication service for the first church was held September 6, 1891, and the first minister was the Rev. L. L. Johnson.

By 1911 the membership of the church had so increased that a larger house of worship was required. Accordingly, in that year the old church building was torn down and an elegant new building of yellow brick was erected. The building was completed in 1912, and Bishop John C. Kilgo preached the opening sermon. In 1917 the first church pipe organ was installed, at which time the church membership had reached 570 and the Sunday School enrollment, 779.

With continued growth in membership, by the early twenties more room was needed. Consequently, in 1925 additional space was made available by an extensive overhauling program involving the excavation of the entire basement area and other substantial improvements. During these remodeling operations the church services were held in the City Hall.

During the thirties there was remarkable growth in all departments and phases of church work, and youth work in particular began to assume more prominence.

In 1940 plans were drawn for a new educational building, but due to war-time restrictions on certain building materials and other causes, the project was postponed until August 1949 - just six weeks before the destruction of the main church building by fire on October 28, 1949. A new pipe organ had been installed in 1942.

For seventeen months after the disastrous fire the congregation met for Sunday School and regular Sunday morning services in the Fisher Street School Building.

In August, 1949, the new Educational Building was begun but in October of the same year the church was completely destroyed by fire, and plans were then made for the construction of an entirely new church plant.

In March, 1951 the new Educational Building was completed. On Easter Sunday 1952, the first service in the Chapel was held, and the three manual Moller organ was installed in the church a few weeks later. This organ was given by Mrs. Alyse Smith Cooper and her brother Mr. J. Harold Smith, in memory of their father, Mr. Marvin Boren Smith, and their mother, Mrs. Elvira Lowe Smith.

The first service in the new church was held on May 28, 1952, a time of inexpressible sadness, being the funeral service of the late Mr. M. B. Smith, who for many years had been one of the most active members, having served as chairman of the official board over a long period of time.



## Front Street Methodist Church - 2

The first service of worship was held in the new church June 15, 1952, Bishop W. Walter Peele bringing the message.

The church was formally dedicated October 9, 1955, at which time the message was brought by Bishop Paul N. Garber.

The following members served on the Building Committee for the present plant: R. A. Maynard, chairman, R. D. Anthony, W. V. Coble, Mrs. F. D. Fowler, Mrs. W. C. Mosier, Phil H. Mast, Joe M. Neel, M. B. Smith, C. G. Somers, and Royall Spence, Sr.

The list of ministers of Front Street Methodist Church from 1888 to 1959 was as follows:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rev. L. L. Johnson   | 13. Rev. W. B. North     |
| 2. Rev. D. L. Earnhardt | 14. Rev. J. B. Hurley    |
| 3. Rev. J. E. Underwood | 15. Rev. George Perry    |
| 4. Rev. L. E. Thompson  | 16. Rev. L. D. Hayman    |
| 5. Rev. J. H. Shore     | 17. Rev. W. A. Cade      |
| 6. Rev. G. B. Perry     | 18. Rev. H. K. King      |
| 7. Rev. D. N. Caviness  | 19. Rev. H. I. Glass     |
| 8. Rev. E. M. Snipes    | 20. Rev. F. S. Love      |
| 9. Rev. J. A. Hornaday  | 21. Rev. L. C. Larkin    |
| 10. Rev. T. A. Sykes    | 22. Rev. W. L. Clegg     |
| 11. Rev. D. H. Tuttle   | 23. Rev. Walter C. Ball  |
| 12. Rev. S. E. Mercer   | 24. Rev. Edgar B. Fisher |

Howard Patterson, pastor of the Methodist Church in Dunkirk, New York, was formerly a member of Front Street Methodist Church.

In 1959 a new Baldwin electronic organ was installed in the Chapel of the Church, this being a gift of the Wesleyan Service Guild of the church.

The membership in 1959 was 1730, with a Church School enrollment of 1205, and with nine members on the staff.

The church has been instrumental in helping to establish a number of other Methodist Churches in Burlington and the surrounding area and continues to help in the financial support of some of these churches. The missionary cause, both at home and abroad, receives support from the church.

The present church is located on the corner of Front and Hoke Streets.

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This history was prepared in June of 1960. In July of 1961 Dr. Edgar B. Fisher, pastor of Front Street Methodist Church for the past five years was succeeded by Rev. Leon Russell, former pastor of the First Methodist Church of Rocky Mount.









H I S T O R Y  
(1955 - 1962)

GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

North Graham-Hopedale Road  
at Wilkins Street

Burlington, North Carolina

\*\*\*\*\*

N. B. Hill, Jr., Pastor

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Prepared by

Mrs. Edgar J. Hammond  
Historian

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HISTORY  
GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

Grace Methodist Church was organized by the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. It was the first of the so-called \$10.00 Club Churches in the Burlington District.

The first meeting, July 13, 1955, was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Sikes Parham, on Martin Street, in Alamance Hills with the following interested people present: Rev. Harmon L. Smith, Jr., Dr. Allen P. Brantley, E. C. Shell, Jr., B. C. Johnson, Jr., Alice Messick, James F. Rogers, W. Sikes Parham, Dr. W. G. McFarland, Lonnie H. Kidd, Mrs. Curtis F. Carden, and J. E. O'Neill, Jr.

Subsequent meetings were held that summer and the first service, with Rev. Harmon L. Smith, Jr., as pastor, was conducted at the National Guard Armory on North Church Street, Sunday, September 9, 1955, with seventy-nine people being present.

Thereafter the congregation met weekly on Sunday morning and evening. Some of the Sunday School classes met at the Health Department on the North Graham-Hopedale Road.

Grace Methodist Church was officially opened Sunday, January 8, 1956, when sixty-two charter members were recognized. Dr. Allen P. Brantley, Superintendent of the Burlington District, read the official recognition from Bishop Paul N. Garber. Dr. Brantley delivered the sermon on "The Church We Love" after which he assisted the pastor, Rev. Harmon L. Smith, Jr., in delivering charter membership certificates to all charter members. The Charter members included: Ralph E. Bolden, Mrs. Ralph E. Bolden, Ralph L. Mann, Mrs. W. G. McFarland, Curtis F. Carden, Mrs. Curtis F. Carden, Leonard Davis, Mrs. Leonard Davis, James M. Dixon, Sr., Mrs. James M. Dixon, Sr., Harry A. Elliott, Mrs. Harry A. Elliott, Larry Elliott, Bayard C. Johnson, Jr., Mrs. Bayard C. Johnson, Jr., Dr. Wilbur G. McFarland, John E. O'Neill, Jr., Mrs. John E. O'Neill, Jr., Edward C. Shell, Mrs. Edward C. Shell, Jr., Mrs. William A. Warren. Also, Howard S. Gailey, Mrs. Howard S. Gailey, Marianne Gregory, William A. Warren, William B. Gibbs, Mrs. William B. Gibbs, Zeb V. Rogers, Mrs. Inez Rogers, Dorothy Rogers, Helen Rogers, W. Edwin Faucette, Mrs. W. Edwin Faucette, James F. Rogers, Mrs. James F. Rogers, Carl



F. Parks, Mrs. Carl F. Parks, James M. Dixon, Jr., W. Sikes Parham, Mrs. W. Sikes Parham, Mrs. Carol Fletcher, John D. Lea, Mrs. John D. Lea, Thomas G. Merriman, Mrs. Thomas G. Merriman, James Donald Moore, Claude H. Hinson.

Also, Mrs. James M. Dixon, Jr., John L. Wells, Mrs. John L. Wells, Mrs. D. F. Jones, Robert E. Merriman, Elizabeth Outlaw, Roy Rogers, Mrs. Roy Rogers, John T. Bailey, Mrs. John T. Bailey, Judy Lynn Bailey, James William Bailey, L. H. Kidd, Mrs. R. L. Mann, Mrs. H. L. Smith, Jr.

The Church was fully organized with Mr. James M. Dixon, Sr., as Chairman of the Official Board, Mrs. E. C. Shell, Jr., Recording Steward, Ralph E. Bolden, Treasurer, W. Sikes Parham, Superintendent of Sunday School, James F. Rogers, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Howard S. Gailey, Chairman of Commission on Membership and Evangelism, Mrs. Jean Jones, Commission on Missions, John O. Lea, Commission on Finance.

The Executive Committee of the first phase of the building program included: John L. Wells, Mrs. W. B. Gibbs, Mrs. B. C. Johnson, Jr., Edward C. Shell, Jr., W. Edwin Faucette, Dr. Wilbur G. McFarland, Thomas G. Merriman, James M. Dixon, Sr., James F. Rogers, and Rev. Harmon L. Smith, Jr.

The construction of the parsonage was begun in February of 1956 and was occupied by Rev. and Mrs. Harmon L. Smith, Jr., in May of that year.

In June 1957 the contract for the Educational Building was awarded and a ground breaking ceremony was held on July 1, 1957. It was occupied for services on December 22, 1957. This first unit, a one story building, consisted of 5 class rooms, church office, kitchen and fellowship hall which served as a sanctuary until October 15, 1961. The Sunday School rooms were fully equipped, and the chancel area in the fellowship hall was simply appointed.

The first phase of the building program was partially financed through the sale of First Mortgage Serial Coupon Building Bonds in \$500.00 denominations, paying five per cent interest semi-annually with a 15 year maturity. The sale of bonds was handled by church members.





Many furnishings and appointments were placed as gifts or memorials by church members and friends of Grace Church, including:

Tile for Nursery Classroom, by Mr. and Mrs. William F. Dunn; Acolyte's Cassocks, by Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Shell, Jr.; Alms Basins, by Mr. and Mrs. Earl S. Bolden, Baptismal Font, by Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Stafford; Candlelabras, by the Woman's Society of Christian Service; Candlelighters, in memory of Mark Bradner Rogers, by Mr. and Mrs. James F. Rogers; Communion Service and Linens, in memory of Rev. Wilbur G. McFarland, Sr., by Dr. and Mrs. Wilbur G. McFarland, Jr.; Cross, by the Woman's Society of Christian Service; Housekeeping Units, in memory of Bernard M. Feinberg, by Grant W. Blum; Two Hymnals, by Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Johnson, Jr.; Five Hymnals, by Miss Gladys Amick, Two Hymnals, by Mrs. Jessie Merriman; Ten Hymnals, by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Merriman; Five Hymnals, by Mr. and Mrs. James M. Dixon, Sr.; Three Hymnals, by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence F. Parks; One Hymnal, by Mrs. Louise Coble; Five Hymnals, by Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Gibbs; Lectern Bible, in memory of Mr. J. R. Stadler by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Bolden; Lectern Bookmarks, in memory of Zeb Rogers, by the Official Board; The Organ, anonymous friend of church; pulpit scarves, in memory of Zeb Rogers, by the Official Board.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized in October of 1955 and Mrs. J. E. O'Neill served as its first president.

The Methodist Men organized in October 1958 with Mr. A. Crew Waite, Jr., as its first president.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship organized in February 1957 and Miss Helen Rogers served as first president.

Since the founding of the church, membership increased to one hundred eighty-eight. Sunday School Membership increased to 187 under the pastorate of Rev. Harmon L. Smith, Jr.

The Burlington School for the Trainable Child was renamed "The Grace School for the Trainable Child" after Grace Methodist Church offered its Church School facilities for their use during the school year 1958-1959. This service of our Church was extended each year through June 1962 when The School for the Trainable Child was moved



into the Burlington School System, being relocated to the Glen Hope School.

The Rev. John Pearsall, succeeded Rev. Harmon L. Smith, Jr., as pastor, July 1, 1959. During his pastorate of twelve months, the building committee composed of the following: Rev. John Pearsall, Mrs. Edward C. Shell, Jr., Mr. Hugh Cazal, Mr. James M. Dixon, Sr., Mr. William F. Dunn, Mr. James F. Rogers, Dr. Wilbur G. McFarland, Jr., and Mr. Carl Parks, engaged Mr. Vernon L. Lewis, local architect, to draw plans for the proposed sanctuary. Bids were received from several contractors but rejected by the Official Board of the Church because of high bids.

With his humble consecrated spirit, the spiritual life of Grace Church was greatly enriched and 30 members were added to the Church during his pastorate.

On July 1, 1960, the Rev. N. B. Hill, Jr. succeeded the Rev. John Pearsall, as pastor.

Authorized by the Official Board the building committee composed of the following: Mr. Carl Parks, Chairman, Mr. James F. Rogers, Dr. Wilbur G. McFarland, Mr. William F. Dunn, Mr. Hugh Cazal, Mr. James M. Dixon, Sr., Mrs. Edward C. Shell, Jr., and Rev. N. B. Hill, Jr., met with the architect, Mr. Vernon L. Lewis, to revise the plans for the proposed sanctuary.

Bids were received on February 15, 1961, and the contract was let on March 15th of that year.

Ground breaking exercises were held Sunday, March 12, 1961, with Dr. W. L. Clegg, Burlington District Superintendent of the Methodist Church, assisting the pastor, Rev. N. B. Hill, Jr., in this special service. Actual construction began March 17, 1961 on the new sanctuary.

The building is of contemporary design with a seating capacity of over 400. The focal point of the sanctuary is the cross on the chancel wall behind the altar table. In addition to the sanctuary, a study for the pastor and an office were added.

The new structure is located adjacent to the Church's Educational Building.

The first service was held in the new sanctuary with Rev. N. B. Hill, Jr.,



pastor, conducting the service on Sunday, October 15, 1961, with approximately 350 people present.

The following furnishing and appointments were placed as gifts or memorials by church members and friends of Grace Church: Altar Table, in memory of Rev. Wilbur G. McFarland, Sr., by Dr. and Mrs. Wilbur G. McFarland, Jr.; Pulpit and Screen, Lectern and Screen, Communion Rail, in memory of Mr. Edgar J. Hammond, by Mrs. Edgar J. Hammond; Kneeling Pad, by Mr. and Mrs. James M. Dixon, Sr.; Church Pew, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. David Williams, Alice Williams and Jean Merriman, by Mrs. Jessie Merriman and Mr. Thomas B. Merriman; Church Pew, by Mrs. Charles A. Harris; Church Pew, by Mrs. Violet Smith; Communion Tray, by Mr. and Mrs. Elmo McCorkle; Altar Vases and Offering Plates, in memory of Mr. William K. Moore, by Mrs. William K. Moore; Candlestix and Wax Savers, by Mrs. Edgar J. Hammond; Five Hymnals, in memory of Mr. Edgar J. Hammond, by Mrs. Beverly H. Dunham.

Under the leadership of the present pastor, Rev. N. B. Hill, Jr., One Hundred-six new members have been added to the church. The present church membership is Two Hundred eighty-seven, with Three Hundred and thirty-two enrolled in the Church School.

Grace Church sponsors One Brownie Troop, 1 Boy Scout Troop, and 1 Cub Scout Pack of 7 Dens.

With the beginning of the 1962-1963 Conference Year, the Church became self supporting.

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H I S T O R Y

Of

HAW RIVER METHODIST CHURCH

Haw River, N. C.

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Rev. Clingman C. Capps, Pastor

\*\*\*\*\*

Compiled and Written

By

J. Hunter Jones

and

Randall Baker

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## HISTORY - HAW RIVER METHODIST CHURCH

The life story of a church is the life story of people as well. The story must, therefore, be related to the history of the community. It must tell something about the life of the families and individuals whose spiritual and financial contributions made the church possible.

Accordingly, a "Look into the Past" is necessary if one is to appreciate fully the rich history of the Haw River Methodist Church. It seems appropriate to say in the beginning that this church was established as a Methodist Protestant Church, and remained such until Methodist Union came in 1939 when the Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Protestant Church, and the M. E. Church, South, were merged into The Methodist Church.

The hill on which our church is now located has always played an important part in the lives of the inhabitants in this area. It is said that the Indians used this area to cross the river and to camp nearby when delays were necessary. Long before our churches acquired the land and built the first little church, this ground was used as a meeting place for public gatherings. At one time there was a Bush Arbor built for some protection from the weather and was used during many of these gatherings. It was in one of these arbors that the White Pilgrim, Joseph Thomas, preached his first sermon. He went on to be a great preacher, and the Haw River Christian Church has dedicated a memorial window in his memory.

When Mr. Adam Trollinger came to this country from Germany and settled near here, he operated a grist mill near this Haw River crossing, which became the hub of activity. He picked a spot west of Haw River Crossing which was known then as "Walnut Grove" to be used for a family burial ground. This area is still located here and is enclosed by a granite wall. A member of the Duke family, who was formerly a Miss Roney, is buried here, and the Duke Foundation, and the descendants of the Trollinger family have responsibility for the upkeep. The two churches which now make up the Haw River Methodist Church were located on the north and south sides of the graveyard. Around the year of 1870-72, Mr. Adolphus Moore and Governor Holt built a one-room building for public gatherings, which was located on or near the site where the Methodist Church now stands. This building was used for a school, union church services, and other public gatherings. This building withstood a slight earthquake and a severe hail storm which occurred in the spring and fall of the year of 1886. The hail storm occurred about the time school was being turned out, but there were no serious injuries. The hail was the size of a hen egg. This information was received from those who are living in the community and were here at that time.

All of the churches in Haw River used this building to organize the denominations which are now active in the community. The Methodist Protestant Church was in the process of organizing and purchasing land in the year 1888. The land was deeded by Thomas M. Holt and Louise Holt. Following some time thereafter, the Haw River Baptist Church was organized. Then, on November 30, 1894, Holt's Chapel M. E. Church South acquired land from the Granite Manufacturing Company and started their organization. The Haw River Christian Church was organized also in the same building.

C. W. Hunt, a minister at Burlington, came to Haw River and organized Holt's Chapel M. E. Church South in the year 1895. L. E. Thompson was appointed as the first minister and served here two years. The first official church board consisted of: A. K. Roney, George W. Anthony, C. W. Hunt, C. A. Bray, and J. H. Flaherty. These were the trustees. The church's first organist was Mrs. Jennie Walker Noble.



Some of the charter members were: Mrs. Della Ray, Mrs. Lessie Pope, Mrs. Ida Teater, Mrs. Tina Tew, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Vest, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Roney, Miss Jennie E. Walker, Mrs. Malinda Whitsell, Miss Betty Ware, Mrs. Dora Purcell, C. A. Bray, J. H. Flaherty.

The Methodist Protestant Church had some trouble in getting its land problem worked out. The group bought land at two different spots before proper church site could be decided upon. This land was purchased from Governor Thomas Holt and his wife, Louise, in the year 1888, and the Granite Manufacturing Company in 1897 and 1901. The Holt property was deeded to the following church trustees: J. M. Cox, W. A. Andrews, W. N. Modlin, Sandy W. Hughes, and H. M. Ray. The second and third deeds were deeded to the following trustees: Sandy W. Hughes, J. C. Kilbert, H. M. Ray, E. R. Overcash, S. D. Holt.

Information of the early growth of the two Methodist Churches which later became the Haw River Methodist Church is sketchy. The Holt's Chapel Methodist Church was the larger of the two. However, names of outstanding members have been difficult to locate. The names that are available were influential in the progress of the churches. Some of those who gave to the church more than 20 years of active service in all official departments were: Fannie Sykes, Dace Pearson, Tom Coble, Spence D. Holt, Mrs. Marinda Cox Stuart, K. B. Williamson, J. M. Murry, Charles L. Reid, Guy W. Crutchfield, Miss Thelma Cates, Mrs. Clara Thompson, John W. Thompson, O. L. Jones, W. H. Huffstetler, J. Hunter Jones, Janie Smith, Mrs. Maude Perry, Del Freeland, Mrs. W. E. McCracken, and Bertie Montgomery.

The two churches, whose members totalled about 36 in the beginning and gradually grew over the many years, now has a membership of 440 in the combined church. The churches had its ups and downs as any church whose history is long. Fires damaged both of the churches. Holt's Chapel fire, which occurred in 1923, did not destroy the building, and its members were able to repair the damage. The Protestant church was destroyed twice by fire, one in the year of 1890 and again in 1922. A brick structure was built at this time, and this part of the church is still being used today by the Haw River Methodist Church. Those who served on the building committee who directed the remodeling and rebuilding were for the Protestant church: Rev. Morgan, Tom S. Coble, K. B. Williamson, W. J. Crutchfield, Espa Bullard, Spence Holt. Those who were serving in the Holt's Chapel were Rev. G. W. Daniel, acting as chairman; John W. Thompson, J. M. McClure, O. L. Jones, and there were others whose names are not available.

The ministry of the two churches is very colorful, with a wide range of men from the early organization to final union in 1942. The churches were always on a circuit with other churches in its entire history except for Holt's Chapel which was served by students between the years of 1929-31.



The names of the ministers have been listed without dates. The reason for this is because of some mixup in dates, and it is felt that it would save the writers from possible errors. The following names are of the ministers who served the churches before union took place:

Holt's Chapel - M. E. South

1894 - 1942

C. W. Hunt, Organizer - Dec. 1, 1894-98  
 L. E. Thompson  
 J. A. Daley  
 B. C. Thompson; the first revival was held by this man and he took in 47 members. This is the largest number at any one time.  
 G. R. Rood  
 G. O. Green; he died Sept. 1902 while serving the charge.  
 W. B. Green  
 Charles Langston  
 W. F. Sanford  
 T. G. Vickers  
 M. M. McFarland; he died while serving this charge on April 18, 1911.  
 B. T. Hurley  
 Rev. Noblett  
 D. C. Durham  
 R. E. Atkinson  
 E. C. Glenn  
 J. R. Edwards  
 C. T. Thrift  
 G. M. Daniels; he was the pastor who re-modeled the church after the fire in 1923.  
 G. W. Starling  
 A. C. Holler  
 C. C. Hubert  
 Paul Cooke; assisted by William Dean. These were the first student pastors.  
 Robert L. Jerome  
 Grady Dawson  
 O. I. Hinson  
 J. F. Coble

Methodist Protestant

1890 - 1942

J. H. Cox  
 W. C. Kennett  
 Rev. Hammer  
 W. H. Ashburn  
 Mack Modlin  
 Rev. McDower  
 J. Henry Ray; lived near Haw River and when the church was without an appointed minister, he would fill in.  
 W. E. Swain  
 Rev. Bowman  
 Rev. Bryant  
 G. W. Holmes; he was once president of the M. P. Conference.  
 Rev. Plyeler  
 Rev. Curry; he was serving here when the train 708 wrecked in Haw River.  
 J. R. Troxler; he served the church twice and died while serving here, around 1930.  
 O. B. Williams; he also served the church at two different times; once after the church burned in 1922.  
 Rev. Ledbetter  
 Clyde Auman  
 O. C. Loy  
 J. B. Pegg  
 Rev. Hutton  
 Rev. Pike  
 T. A. Williams  
 J. F. Coble

In 1941 Rev. J. F. Coble now pastor of both the branches, was the first minister to serve both churches at the same time. A meeting of both churches was called to lay plans for the group to form one congregation. The following minutes are from the first three joint committee meetings:

First Meeting: October 6, 1942

The first meeting was called to order by its Ex-officio chairman Rev. Joseph Coble in the community club building, with prayer. The first duty was to elect a secretary, and after Mr. T. S. Coble nominated J. Hunter Jones and seconded by Dace Pearson, he was elected on a vote.

After much discussion it was decided by the committee to get Mr. Charlie Garrison to look over both buildings and see what can be done about the buildings being consolidated.





After a general discussion on many subjects it was decided to hold the next meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Building on a day to be notified by the chairman, Mr. Coble, at a later time at which meeting Mr. Coble will get a representative of the Board of Missions and Church Extension to meet with us. The deeds of both churches are to be produced at the next meeting.

A motion to adjourn by Mr. Dace Pearson and seconded by Mr. T. S. Coble, and on vote was carried.

J. M. McClure was absent. O. L. Jones voted his proxy.

Committee Members

Joseph F. Coble, Chairman  
Dace Pearson  
T. S. Coble  
K. B. Williamson  
O. L. Jones  
J. M. McClure  
J. Hunter Jones

Second Meeting: October 8, 1942

The second meeting was opened by Rev. J. F. Coble and prayer was asked by Dr. Love, member of the Board of Missions and Church Extension.

Dr. Love's opinion was asked and received in regard to the operation of our two (2) churches and their present plants. His opinion was that we had a perfect setup with the exception of being separated by a short distance, that reference being to our Sunday School.

After listening to Dr. Love, a discussion led to an agreement that no major amount of debt be incurred at present and that both churches be used as they are.

A motion was made by O. L. Jones and seconded by Dace Pearson to ask the Trustees not to let out any more burial plots behind the brick church.

The motion was made by Dace Pearson that the adult division of the church school would be assigned to the brick church and the young people and the primary divisions be assigned to Holt's Chapel. This was seconded by T. S. Coble and on vote the motion was carried.

After discussing the road approaches to the brick church and the possibility of opening a new entrance in the rear, the committee recommends to the new Trustees that the old approach be improved and that the new one be opened.

The meeting was adjourned by its chairman.

J. M. McClure was absent (He was not notified about the meeting).

Mr. O. L. Jones made a motion that the regular place of worship be at the brick church. It was seconded by K. B. Williamson, and on vote the motion was carried.



Third Meeting: October 27, 1942

The meeting was opened by its chairman, J. F. Coble, and prayer by J. M. McClure. Minutes were read for both previous meetings and approved after corrections.

All members were present. A motion was made to move our local church conference year to end October 31st. The motion was made by K. B. Williamson and seconded by T. S. Coble. On motion the vote was carried.

The committee requests that the new trustees of the Methodist Church do something about the approaches to brick church as soon as possible.

All minutes of this committee are complete, the report of this special elected committee for the purpose of drawing up the workable framework of the Haw River Methodist Church.

J. Hunter Jones, Secretary

J. F. Coble served both churches separately and helped unify them but did not return the next year to be pastor. He would preach in the two churches to separate congregations. Even though unification was passed by the General Conference in 1939, it was not until 1942 that our two churches merged into one congregation.

The following are the ministers who have served the unified Haw River Methodist Church:  
1942 - 1961

Allen C. Edens, Jr.; he went into the chaplaincy June 1, 1944.

H. Burnell Pannell

Fred Pfisterer; left here in September, 1948 and Gene Newberry, a Presbyterian, filled in until Annual Conference met.

D. J. Reid; Reid organized the Haw River Civic Association and was its first president.

D. M. Sharp

J. W. Goodwin; Goodwin went from here to the mission field and is now serving in South America.

Randall Baker; helped to compile and write this history.

Clingman C. Capps - present pastor at Haw River Methodist Church.

At the beginning of unification when the two churches came together in 1942 the combined membership was under two hundred. It has grown to the present membership of 464.

Although when the two churches merged the space needed to carry on a full program in any one of the churches was not enough, so both churches had to be used during the Sunday School hour. This brought about a problem because usually after Sunday School many people would go home rather than walk to the other building to attend church. The members began to make plans to build an education building on to the present sanctuary. The frame building of Holt's Chapel M. E. Church South was sold, and plans for the new addition were drawn up by a former member of the church, Mrs. Walter B. Jones. The church accepted the plans as being adequate and after several meetings a contract was given under the direction of a building committee.

The Board of Trustees acting under the authority of the called session of a Quarterly Conference held on March 13, 1949 hereby authorizes the Building Committee (which was elected by this Quarterly Conference) to proceed with the building of the



parsonage, and making disposition of our church building known as Holt's Chapel, taking into consideration the authority and conditions under which these two jobs can be done, including furniture and fixtures, not at Holt's Chapel.

On March 20, 1949, another meeting of the Board of Trustees was held and J. Hunter Jones, acting as chairman, called the meeting to order. The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: J. Hunter Jones, J. W. Thompson, J. W. Clayton, L. P. Kimery, O. L. Jones and Rev. Dermont Reid.

The Board of Trustees elected J. Hunter Jones as chairman for the conference year of 1948-49. A motion was made by L. P. Kimery that the church purchase a lot from the Cone Mills Corporation. The motion was seconded, and the vote carried the motion.

About this time a litigation that had been going on for about 18 months, between Mr. Sidney S. Payne for Cone Mills Corporation, and W. G. Crutchfield and J. Hunter Jones for the Methodist Church, terminated and out of which the church received a building lot for the parsonage site for a very small sum.

On March 24, 1949, a meeting was called and at that meeting definite plans were launched for the building of the parsonage. A sub-committee was appointed to assist Mr. Marion Workman on this job, who had agreed to look after and build the building. Appointed on this committee were: Edward Smith, W. Guy Crutchfield, Ralph Pearson, Glenn Stout, and J. C. Clayton. At this meeting, Mr. H. E. Hendry was appointed to dispose of the fixtures in the Holt's Chapel building--to assist under the direction of the chairman of this committee.

At a meeting held June 28, 1949, this committee voted to dispose of the following items at the prices listed. Old pews @ \$15 each; church bell @ \$30; old opera chairs @ \$1.50 each. All of the surplus furniture was sold, and the money was turned over to the building fund treasurer, J. C. Clayton.

At a meeting on August 16, 1949, Mr. Workman reported that the parsonage was just about finished, with a few minor details to be done, the approximate cost of which would be \$7,569. The parsonage would include five rooms with bath downstairs and space upstairs floored for two rooms. The committee figured a considerable saving because of M. G. Workman's supervision in this work. Also at this meeting, plans were made to start work on our church school building. Mr. Wagoner, one of the contractors who helped Mr. Workman on the parsonage, promised to take the job; however, he put us off on starting the building, for varied and certain reasons, for about 12 months. On August 28, 1950, Edward Smith and J. C. Clayton of the sub-committee signed a contract with Earl P. Gates to do the work, as Mr. Wagoner failed to start it by August 1, as he had promised to do.

The plans for a 10-room and two-auditorium building were drawn by Mrs. Walter Jones to fit a lot approximately 32' x 48', but later on we were able to move some graves at the rear of the lot, which gave us more room for the building, so we changed the plans to fit the larger lot, and that gave larger classrooms.

The Board of Stewards voted us \$12,000 to build the building and finish the downstairs part of it, but as the building progressed, there were elaborate changes made which cost much more money than originally estimated. We finally decided we would have to stop the work, just before it was finished, besides we were going deep in debt. Before we could get it stopped, we had spent \$24,000 and at that time we were in debt \$6,000.



The following were the sub-committee for the church school building. Edward Smith, Chairman, J. C. Clayton, M. G. Workman, Glenn Stout, and Ralph Pearson.

A large number of the church members gave to the building a great deal of their time and labor. To try to show the appreciation of the church membership, the following names are those who made some contribution in free labor and other means to put the building in use. It is possible that some names have been missed and if so, it was not done intentionally. Among those were: M. G. Workman, Jack Leach, Jimmie Leach, J. C. Shropshire, A. A. Lute, J. B. Hughes, Jr., Richard Hendry, Mrs. W. B. Jones, Glenn Stout, Donald Reid, D. J. Reid, Luke Trollinger, Edward Smith, Carl Ray, Jerry Ray, Mack Woods, John Wesley Woods, Arlie Allen, Sr., J. C. Clayton, Joe Holt, E. C. Workman, Rudy Montgomery, Elvis Pendergraph, Simon Allen, Dace Pearson, Allen Pearson, W. G. Crutchfield, Paige Stout, Allen Newlin, Reid Aldridge, Ralph Pearson, Joe Harrison, Billy Montgomery, Joe Allen, Monroe Woods, H. E. Hendry, J. Hunter Jones, W. M. Leach, J. A. Long, Jr., Curtis Moore, Clarence Terrell, Melvin McBride, Levi Aldridge, James Faucette, Manuel Williamson, and Eugene Modlin.

A large crew of ladies and young girls helped clean up the building before the church school moved in. The names of this group are not available, but they did a splendid job for which we were very grateful indeed.

Last but not least, in the Spring of 1952 there were definite plans laid to raise funds and pay off the mortgage on church property incurred by the building of the church school department. Mr. Manuel Williamson was made chairman of this committee. The money was raised and the debt was completely paid off on June 5, 1952. We received two large outside donations for these projects; one from The Cone Foundation for \$5,000, and the other from the Duke Endowment for \$2,000.

The church and parsonage committee gave their final report on progress of the building program. This was September 8, 1952. The following names were on the Building Committee: J. Hunter Jones, Chairman; Constance M. Cates, Secretary; Mrs. R. B. Clayton, J. C. Clayton, W. Guy Crutchfield, H. E. Hendry, A. D. Pearson, Ralph Pearson, Edward Smith, Glenn Stout, Marion Workman, and Rev. D. J. Reid.

The church has seen a large growth since 1949, and the condition of the sanctuary began to show its age from the many years of use before and after unification. During the pastorate of Rev. James W. Goodwin there were plans laid to remodel the sanctuary. Rev. Goodwin left for the mission field before these plans could be carried out. In 1957, after Rev. Randall Baker was appointed minister to the church, these plans were completed and the remodeling job was completed. A new Building Committee was formed with the following people who served: Glen Pendergraph, A. A. Lute, and Allen Newlin.

The cost of the remodeling was \$16,000. The church had in a building fund \$5,000, and the remainder was borrowed from the Haw River Bank for a period of four and one-half years. The work was contracted to the Jessup Contracting Company. However, many items were given by members of families in honor or in memory of a loved one:

Art Glass Windows: In Memory of: Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hughes, Sr. and Mr. J. B. Hughes, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Ray, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Suits, Mr. W. H. Huffstetler, Mrs. Dora Purcell, Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Hughes, and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Crutchfield. In Honor of: Mr. J. Hunter Jones.

Altar Set: In Memory of: Mr. J. W. Thompson (Cross), Mr. K. B. Williamson (Offering Plates) In Honor of: Miss Thelma Cates (Flower Vases).





The organ was given by the Adult Men's Bible Class and the piano given by the youth in honor of the youth choir leaders, Mr. Graham Faucette, Mrs. Norma Goodwin, and Miss Cleora Cates.

This paper does not by any means complete the history of the Haw River Methodist Church. We realize that there are many things that have been overlooked or not at present available for use. We wish it were possible to mention every member and person who has contributed some part to the growth of the church. We realize that service cannot be measured by many of the general standards of measurement. Everything that has been done to advance the church has meant a great deal, and by no means do we wish to overlook any detail that is at the disposal of the committee. We just hope that each one who has had a part will feel that your part has been valuable in the growth and progress of our church.

The church is a living and moving organization and is making history every day. Tomorrow, it will have changed and new faces will appear on the surface of dedication. We do not wish to stop with past history, but to set our faces toward the future where greater things can be done than we have seen in the past.

So, we look upon the Haw River Methodist Church as not history but a new adventure moving into the pages of time.

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H I S T O R Y  
MT. HERMON METHODIST CHURCH  
Route #1, Graham, N.C.

(1960)

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Rev. M. W. Warren, Pastor

Prepared  
By  
Vance Garrett  
Rt. #1, Mebane, N. C.

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## HISTORY - MT. HERMON METHODIST CHURCH

Religious worship at the site of the Mt. Hermon Church dates back as far as 1753, according to information by the late J. W. Whitehead, who served as Quarterly Conference secretary of the Methodist Protestant Conference for fifty years.

The earliest record of deeds is 1834. A deed was originally recorded in Hillsboro, N. C., for one acre of land sold by Henry Foust and a deed for two acres sold by George Albright to the trustees of Mt. Hermon Church, Nicholas Albright, Eli McDaniel, Alvis Albright, William Holmes and John Stockard. The first of these deeds refers to the "old" Mt. Hermon tract which would signify that there was property ownership by the church prior to this time.

The year 1790 is a date on a tombstone in the cemetery indicating that it was a burial ground at that time. According to an inscription on a monument in the cemetery, the first member to join the Methodist Protestant Church at Mt. Hermon was Nancy A. Nicholson.

Rev. Alexander Albright was the first regular pastor, but services were held by exhorters, local preachers and visiting ministers of various denominations.

It is thought that in 1829, Mt. Hermon was organized as a Methodist Protestant Church. Opinion is divided as to how the church got its name. Some think the name was chosen from the Biblical Mt. Hermon in Palestine, which is the highest mountain in the Holy Land and thought to be the scene of the Transfiguration. Then there are those who agree with Miss Sallie Stockard in her book The History of Alamance. She said, "Mt. Hermon Church is named for Hermon Husbands, a prominent Quaker, who came from Maryland to North Carolina in 1751, and in 1755 married Mary Pugh of the Cane Creek community. He made a road known as the "Hermon Road" from Cane Creek to Hillsboro, the county seat of Orange County, of which this area was a part at that time. Since the church was located on the "Hermon Road", the church was named for him."

A brief history of Mt. Hermon Circuit compiled in 1898 by the Rev. W. Ellis Swain says: "In 1830 during the month of September there was a camp-meeting held at this place in which Ivy Harris, Willis Harris and Alexander Albright were the preachers. These camp-meetings were held once in two years. In 1832, there was a wonderful manifestation of Divine power and one hundred souls were born into the Kingdom."

In a letter to the Methodist Protestant, a national church paper, dated October 19, 1832, Rev. Alexander Albright, pastor of the Orange Circuit which was made up of Mt. Hermon and seven other surrounding meeting houses, wrote an account of the camp-meeting held at Mt. Hermon in August of that year, as follows:

"Our fourth commenced at Mount Hermon, in Orange, on Friday the last day of August. Here we had the largest congregation in attendance that I ever saw, I think, on any former occasion. Eighty-five tents were erected and occupied; besides, there were a great many families in wagon, who never made tents at all.

Our brethren in the ministry from this county and from Guilford and Granville attended and laboured faithfully and successfully. When we take into consideration that but one minister of all who attended lived within a shorter distance than twenty-two miles, others from forty to seventy or eighty, and that, notwithstanding the greatness of distance, there were eleven or twelve in attendance, we are constrained to believe that our brethren feel an interest in the business somewhat appropriate to



its importance. At several periods during the meeting, it is estimated that not less than two hundred were down as mourners at the same time, calling on God for mercy--such a meeting I never before beheld. The meeting was with some difficulty brought to a close on Wednesday, the number of converts has been variously estimated, the least being fifty or sixty, and it is believed by many, that there was not less than one hundred."

In 1828 the first annual Conference for Methodist Protestant Churches was organized at Whitaker's Meeting House in Halifax County with twenty-six members in attendance, one of whom was Rev. Alexander Albright. Annual meetings of this Conference were held, and on February 27, 1834, the Conference met at Mt. Hermon Meeting House at which time Rev. Alexander Albright, pastor of this church, was elected president of the Conference.

On November 3, 1843, the Conference again met at Mt. Hermon. It was at this meeting that a very literary obituary of Rev. Alexander Albright was read to the Conference. The obituary was written by Rev. Alson Gray and a copy is in the church records. The Mt. Hermon cemetery is the final resting place of Rev. Albright.

The annual North Carolina Conference met for the third time at Mr. Hermon on November 11, 1847, at which time Rev. Alson Gray was president.

Information is somewhat vague on the early buildings at Mt. Hermon. It is known there was a log building, which stood on what is now a part of the cemetery, and was used as a place of worship and as a school. Then there was an arbor. A frame building was started before the Civil War and was completed during the reconstruction days following the war. In 1890 another frame building was completed; Rev. John N. Garrett was pastor of the church at this time.

Rev. W. Ellis Swain in his brief history of Mt. Hermon Circuit in 1898 says: "As the years went by the congregation grew, and the membership increased, so that it has been found necessary to rebuild several times, each church larger than its predecessor. Today (1898) the church building at Mt. Hermon is one of the best country churches in all this section: the membership is large, and great throngs of people worship here."

The building to which Rev. Swain referred was erected on land donated by Alfred Isley. Practically all the materials and construction labor were donated. The artistic arrangement of the chancel railing, newels and Bible stand has been an item of comment by many people throughout the years that the building was used. The newels were turned by Henry Loy, and the construction of the chancel rail and Bible stand was by John Boone. Ash and walnut wood were alternately used to give the effective appearance. The varnish and finishing work was done by D. W. Phillips of Yadkin College, N. C. It is noteworthy that this work needed no refinishing the 67 years the church was used. The cost of this work, the varnishing of the pews and outside paint job was \$64.

Additional purchases and donations of land have been made from time to time until at the present, there is approximately five acres in the church grounds. In addition is the two acre tract, donated by Arthur C. Thompson, on which the parsonage was built. The parsonage was dedicated in a formal ceremony on Sunday, April 24, 1955.

Originally, Mt. Hermon was one of several churches making up the Orange Circuit, which was one of the oldest and strongest circuits in the state. In 1860 the Alamance Circuit was formed and was composed of about eight churches, including Mt. Hermon. About 1890 the Mt. Hermon Charge was created, and was composed of Friendship, Haw River,



Bellemont, and Mt. Hermon, and later was made up of Cedar Cliff, Bellemont, Friendship, and Mt. Hermon. This grouping remained until 1954 when Friendship withdrew to become a station. At the 1960 annual North Carolina Conference, Mt. Hermon Church with a membership of 508 will be established as a station, and will have its first full time pastor.

The year 1939 represents the largest reunion in the history of Christendom when the Methodist Protestant Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South united to become The Methodist Church.

Members of Mt. Hermon Church who became ministers are the Reverends Alexander Albright, Jordan Neese, George W. Holmes, Joseph Holmes, John N. Garrett, Hubert L. Isley and George Johnson. John Loy and Peter Sharpe were called "Local Preachers" and Exhorters were Jacob Garrett and Henry Green Sharpe.

Ministers who have served as pastors of Mt. Hermon Church from 1829 to 1833 were: Alexander Albright, Daniel Thompson, and John C. Forbes.

Orange Circuit was formed on February 14, 1833. Its ministers have included: Alson Gray, 1834; John F. Speight, 1835; William Lineberry, 1836; Joseph Holmes, 1837; Jas. H. Christie, 1838-39; William Lineberry, 1840; Arrington Gray, 1841; Alexander Albright, 1842; Arrington Gray, 1843; W. C. Patterson, 1844; John Hinshaw, 1845; W. C. Patterson, 1846; Unsupplied, 1847; William McCain, 1848-49; Daniel Foust, 1850-51; Alson Gray, 1852; I. M. Kennett, 1853; I. A. Neese, 1854; A. W. Lineberry, 1855; T. F. McCulloch, 1856; William J. Ogburn, 1857; J. M. Stout, 1858; J. W. Heath, 1859; Un-supplied, 1860.

Alamance Circuit was formed November 19, 1860; its pastors included: T. H. Pegram, 1861-62; A. W. Lineberry, 1863-64; Cicero F. Harris, 1865; J. W. Heath, 1866; A. W. Lineberry, 1867-1868; J. W. Heath, 1869-71; Cicero F. Harris, 1872; W. W. Amick, 1873-79; Cicero F. Harris, 1880; J. H. Totten, 1881-82; G. W. Bowman, 1883-84; John N. Garrett, 1885; W. W. Amick, 1886-89.

Mt. Hermon Charge has had the following pastors; John N. Garrett, 1890-91; D. A. Highfill, 1892; W. F. McDowell, 1893-94; W. F. Ashburn, 1895-97; W. E. Swain, 1898-1902; E. A. Plyler, 1903-05; J. H. Bowman, 1906; O. P. Routh, 1907; J. A. Burgess, 1908-10; E. G. Lowdermilk, 1911-12; C. H. Whitaker, 1913-14; J. A. Burgess, 1915-18; J. H. Bowman, 1919-20; A. O. Lindley, 1921-23; W. F. Ashburn, 1924-25; J. E. Carroll, 1926-30; L. E. Mabrey, 1931-33; T. J. Whitehead, 1934-35; J. R. Anderson, 1936-38; R. L. Hethcox, 1939-40; W. B. Cotton, 1941-44; H. H. Cash, 1945-46; R. Z. Newton, 1947-52; E. E. Whitley, 1953; A. W. Lore, 1954-57; M. W. Warren, 1958-June 30, 1960.

A member of Mt. Hermon Church whose religious and moral influence was wide-spread was Rev. George W. Holmes. In 1880 he was graduated at Trinity College, now Duke University. Following graduation, he taught in the academic schools of Alamance County. In 1890 he was elected president of Yadkin College, the forerunner of High Point College, which position he held for nine years. He served on the Board of Education in Davidson and Alamance Counties, and was also on the Board of Trustees of High Point College for a number of years. In 1901 he was licensed to preach by the Quarterly Conference of Mt. Hermon Charge. In 1917 he was elected president of the North Carolina Methodist Protestant Conference and served in this capacity for two years. While in active ministry he served charges in Halifax, Edgecombe, Granville, Vance, Orange, Chatham and Alamance Counties. He was devoted to education, and possessed great principles of truth and righteousness which he imparted by dedicating his life to education and the church.



Another member who gained state-wide recognition was Colonel John Stockard, who was a trustee of Mt. Hermon Church in 1834. Records show he held various church offices. Mr. Stockard was one of the states quota of militia, who volunteered for active service in the War of 1812 and because of his war record was recognized as a Colonel. In 1826 Col. Stockard was elected to the House of Commons and served through 1830. He represented Orange County again in 1833 and served continuously in the House until 1836. He was again elected to the lower House in 1842, and for the last time in 1848. He was buried in the Mt. Hermon cemetery and an inscription on his monument states he served as a member of the North Carolina Legislature for sixteen years. Col. Stockard worked hard for the bill authorizing the new County to be known as "Alamance". Among other bills receiving his support was the State Hospital for the Insane, and also the chartering of the North Carolina Railroad. Col. Stockard was born and lived all his life at the old Stockard homeplace in the Mt. Hermon community.

When the parsonage was dedicated in April, 1955, it was the property of the Mt. Hermon Charge, and was owned jointly by the Bellemont, Cedar Cliff and Mt. Hermon Churches. In March, 1960, Mt. Hermon agreed to purchase the interest held by the other churches, thereby making Mt. Hermon the sole owner at a cost of about \$10,000.

On May 5, 1957, the first service was held in the present brick structure, consisting of sixteen classrooms, pastor's study, choir room, church school office and sanctuary at a total cost of \$112,670. Pews, chairs and other equipment purchased amounted to \$9565, an organ at a cost of \$4000, and a piano at \$875, a total outlay for church and parsonage of \$137,110. The church was formally dedicated by Bishop Paul N. Garber on March 15, 1959.

The church building committee was made up of the following: George Wood, Chairman; John P. Loy, Sr., Secretary, Glenn Hobby, Treasurer; Frank Holt, A. D. Bailey, Sr., J. S. Johnson, C. C. Holt, Jerome Lindley, O. T. Bailey, Frank Apple, T. D. Vinson, Clyde Allen, Ernest Crabtree, June Coble, Wilbur Brown, G. E. Curtis, Leonard Allison, Arthur White, Marvin Sharp, and Ray Coon.

The Methodist Men's Club sponsored the Landscaping, with grading and road building contributed by A. D. Bailey and Son and Arthur White. Shrubbery was furnished and planted by Jerome Lindley.

Numerous Memorials are as follows:

In Honor of

Rev. A. W. Lore

By

Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Holt

"Altar Window"

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(Honor) (Memory)

Mrs. Mattie T. and Shelley G. Coble

By

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur White and Bobby

"Baptismal Font"

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Sanctuary Pews:

In Memory of

Willie Craven Wood	By	Mrs. Josephine Wood
*****		
Mr. and Mrs. James Lee Holt	By	Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Holt
*****		
Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Coble	By	Mr. and Mrs. John Clifford Coble
*****		
Mr. and Mrs. George F. Thompson	By	Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Holt
*****		
Mrs. J. H. B. (Honor) J.H.B. Holt	By	Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Holt
*****		
Mrs. Elmer Coble	By	Ladies Fellowship Class
*****		

In Honor

Adrian Wood	By	Mr. and Mrs. Don Wood
*****		
Mrs. Josephine Wood	By	Her Children
*****		
Mrs. Arthur C. Thompson	By	Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hobby
*****		
Annie Ruth and Deborah Apple	By	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Apple
*****		
Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Bailey	By	Sylvia, Otis and Oscar Bailey
*****		

Choir Pews:

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Coon	By	Sylvia and Mauline Coon
*****		
Frank F. Thompson	By	Miss Lola Thompson
*****		

Church Study Equipment:

	By	Methodist Men's Club
*****		

In Honor

Original Missionary Society

By

Circle #1, W.S.C.S.

"Kneeling Pad"

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In Memory of

Mr. and Mrs. V. T. Wood

By

Their Family

"Altar Set"

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Methodist Hymnals:

By Circle #2, W.S.C.S.

Church Study: (Furnishings)

By G. B. Robbins

.8 Acre Land:By Mr. and Mrs. Grover Isley  
\*\*\*\*\* and FamilyOrgan and Chimes:

In Memory of Loved Ones by Relatives:

Trudy Bright By Parents, Helen and John Bright

Edie Coble By Her Children

Mary and Cad Farrell By Jessie and Murl

Mary and Gilbert Holt By Family

Isaac Holt By Heenan Holt

Edith Holt By Heenan Holt

Lonnie P. Holt By Elsie, L. P. and Alwilda

Jewel and Geo. M. Isley By Family

Gelia Loy By S. J. Loy and Family

Henry W. Lutterloh By Wife, Bertie

Tanur and A. B. Nicholson By Family

Addie Nicholson By Sisters, Stella and Martha

W. P. Parker By Ruby Parker

E. H. Steele, Jr. By Dorothy and Daughters

Arthur Thompson By Wife and Children

Craven Wood By Wife and Children

Annie and Henry Wood By Children

W. S. C. S. By Circle #3

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Piano:

In Memory of

R. Z. Newton

By

Church Donations

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MOUNT HERMON MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

The Mt. Hermon cemetery was started in the late 1700's. Families were allowed to mark off plots any size and anywhere they desired, thus creating a rather haphazard and complicated arrangement. Prior to the beginning of the Memorial Association, volunteer groups assembled with rakes, hoes, mattocks, and briar scythes on an appointed day before the annual revival meeting to clear the foreign growth and all rubbish and to otherwise improve the general appearance of the cemetery. Due to the size of the cemetery and the number of graves involved, this was certainly not the most desired method of maintenance. Those who had loved ones and friends buried here felt a need for a more systematic plan, whereby necessary funds for the care of the cemetery might be provided and the necessary work more efficiently executed.

In 1925 the Mt. Hermon Memorial Association was formed by those interested in the cemetery in making it a more respectable resting place for the deceased and for those who will be buried here in the future. The organization was formed with the following officers: President, Ezekiel H. Coble, 1st. vice-president, Gilbert M. Holt; 2nd vice-president, T. P. Nicholson; secretary-treasurer, E. F. Holt. McBride Holt of Graham assisted with the organization and served as its advisor until his death. The third Sunday in May was designated for the annual meeting.

Interest in the organization has continued to grow through the years and the day's activities attract large crowds of people, many of whom come from some distance, even as much as two hundred miles. The morning programs have consisted of special choir music, congregational singing, solos by talented singers, and addresses by speakers of state-wide reputation, a few of whom were Judge Johnson J. Hayes, Hon. J. Melville Broughton, Sr., Editor Sylvester Green, Hon. William B. Umstead, Editor Sanford Martin, Dr. I. G. Greer, Hon. Herbert F. Seawell, and others.

After two hours of fellowship around the sumptuous picnic dinner table, the business session of the Association is conducted, at which time plans are made for future development and continued improvements.

In the oldest part of the cemetery, there is approximately three acres that was used as free burial ground. In April of 1933 the first land, about .5 acre was deeded to the Memorial Association by the church and plots were sold at the low price of ten dollars for a four grave plot and twenty dollars for an eight grave plot. On June 1, 1945, 2.5 acres of land were purchased from Eli Payne, and on March 17, 1957 the three acres of the original part of the cemetery was deeded to the Association by the church trustees. This land was the tracts deeded to the church by Henry Foust and George Albright. Then on October 16, 1958, 7.8 acres were purchased from Numer Isley for future development, making a total of about 14 acres in the cemetery tract.

Walks have been laid out, and drives in and around the cemetery have been built. Part of the wooded area has been cleared and some areas have been sowed in grass and plans made to sow more as money is available. A marker was erected in memory of the slaves buried here. A brick building was constructed by the Association for the storage of tools and equipment. All these improvements have been made possible by the generous contributions of friends and relatives mainly at the morning service on Memorial Day, and a small amount of revenue from the sale of plots.

Men who have served as President of the Association are: Ezekiel H. Coble, 1925-1931; L. P. Holt, Sr., 1931-1939; W. C. Presnell, 1939-1942; C. C. Holt, 1942-1951; G. F. Holt, 1951-1953; Vance S. Garrett, 1953--.



The Association is grateful to E. F. Holt who served faithfully as Treasurer for thirty years, from 1925 until 1955.

At the 30th annual Memorial Day meeting on May 15, 1955, plans for the incorporation of the Association were approved, and a revision of the Constitution and By-Laws was unanimously accepted.

Rev. Alexander Albright and Rev. John N. Garrett, former members who served at Mt. Hermon Church as pastors, are buried in the cemetery. Rev. Joseph Holmes and Rev. Hubert L. Isley, former members, are also buried here. Mt. Hermon cemetery has been made a hallowed place by the burial of many influential people. Their influence has extended through the years by their efforts to establish a worship center and to lay the foundation of a progressive community.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This brief history of Mt. Hermon Church and cemetery was compiled from facts derived from minutes of the annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, from Quarterly Conference records of The Methodist Church, old church papers and records on file at High Point College, and some information from elderly residents and former residents and former residents of the community.

Vance S. Garrett  
April 1, 1960

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H I S T O R Y  
(1962-1963)

ROCK CREEK METHODIST CHURCH  
Route #2  
Snow Camp, North Carolina

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Rev. Don D. Lewis, Pastor

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Prepared  
By

Methodist Youth Fellowship

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## HISTORY

### Rock Creek Methodist Church Route 2 Snow Camp, N. C.

The Rock Creek Methodist Church was organized about 1838 and the first building was built in 1845. At that time it was the Rock Creek Methodist-Protestant Church. The land for the structure of the church was granted by Balaam Hornaday. Some of the organizers of the church were Milton Coble, John McPherson, Edwin Ingold, and Balaam Hornaday.

Some of the early pastors of the church included Rev. Alson Gray, Rev. John Martin, Rev. James Stockard, Rev. W. C. Kennett, Rev. C. F. Harris. After 1900 some of the pastors were Rev. John N. Garrett, Rev. W. F. McDowell, Rev. W. F. Ashburn, Rev. D. A. Highfill, Rev. T. F. McCulloch, Rev. William M. Pike, Rev. J. A. Ledbetter, Rev. George W. Holmes, Rev. John A. Burgess, Rev. H. L. Isley, and Rev. Reynolds.

In 1939 the Methodist-Protestant, Methodist-Episcopal, and Methodist-Episcopal Church South all united and formed one church named The Methodist Church. The first minister after unification was Rev. Henry B. Lewis. He was followed by Revs. Roland, Cranford, Bingham, Burnett, W. E. Tisdale, G. W. Johnson, J. L. Bryan, and D. D. Lewis.

In 1940-41 some major improvements were begun on the church itself. A new floor was put in and the platform at the front of the sanctuary was added. In 1945-46, the educational annex was erected, plus the basement and new heating system, at a cost of about \$16,500. The new pews were purchased in 1947 at a cost of \$1,900, and in 1950 water was connected and the rest room were added. The present porch, front steps, and steeple were added in 1953 as a gift of Mr. F. D. Hornaday, Sr., and his sons F. D. Jr., and Russell. The carpet was put in about 1957 at a cost of \$1,200, and the same year Mr. L. M. Robbins gave the new piano. One of the more recent additions is the organ, given by Mr. Leroy Pickard in 1959.

The new brick parsonage was built and entered in December, 1960. At present, the membership of the church is 135.

Members of the Rock Creek Methodist Church: Charlie Bishop, Route 6, Burlington; Ora (Mrs. J. Otis) Bishop, Route 6, Burlington; George Bishop, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Annie Merle Brooks (Culberson), Mebane; Dora Coble, Route 2, Liberty; Mrs. Lynn Cook (Martha Dare Alexander), Route 6, Burlington; Kenneth Culberson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Kermit Culberson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Ora Lou Culberson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Alan J. Culberson, Route 2, Snow Camp; W. Beacher Daffron, Route 3, Liberty; Jack Daniels, Route 3, Liberty; Mrs. Jack Daniels (Sara Grace), Route 3, Liberty; Elsie Mae Durham, Route 2, Snow Camp; Lenward Faulkner, Route 2, Snow Camp; Lawrence Faulkner, 1013 Elwell Ave., Greensboro; Mrs. Lawrence Faulkner (Allene), 1013 Elwell Ave., Greensboro; Ross Fogleman, Route 3, Liberty; Roy Garrett, Route 6, Burlington; Mrs. Coy Garrett, Route 6, Burlington; Algie Graves, Graham; Mrs. M. E. Graves (Millie Katherine), Route 2, Snow Camp; Herman Graves, 220 W. Garden Street, Graham; Howard Graves, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Howard Graves (Mable Thompson) Route 2, Snow Camp; Mannie Graves, Route 2, Snow Camp; Myra Lynn Graves, Route 2, Snow Camp; Wayne A. Greeson (Tony), Route 2, Snow Camp; Frances Holt Guthrie, Route 2, Snow Camp; O. C. Guthrie, Jr., Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. O. C. Guthrie, Jr., Route 2, Snow Camp; Lucy Eugenia Hill, Route 2, Snow Camp; Martha Hill, Route 2, Snow Camp; Robert D. Hill, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Robert Hill (Virginia), Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. A. T. Holt (Lessie), Route 2, Snow Camp; Dorma E. Holt, Route 6, Kimesville Rd., Burlington; Mrs. D. E. Holt (Maryellen), Route 6, Kimesville Road, Burlington; F. D. Hornaday, Jr., Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. F. D. Hornaday, Jr. (Alice Blue) Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. F. D. Hornaday, Sr., (Nannie), Route 2, Snow Camp; F. D. Hornaday, III, Route 2, Snow Camp; Julia Ann Hornaday, Route 2, Snow Camp; Roy Zelle Hornaday, Sr., Route 2, Snow Camp; Roy Zelle Hornaday, Jr., Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. R. Z. Hornaday, Jr. (Doris), Route 2, Snow Camp; Russell M. Hornaday, Brookwood Apts,



Burlington; Grady Ingold, Route 2, Snow Camp; Louis Ingold; Mrs. Don Lewis (Ruth), Route 2, Snow Camp; Lois Ingold Lucas, Route 2, Snow Camp; Boyd McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Boyd McPherson (Eloise), Route 2, Snow Camp; Cathy Lynne McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Clyde McPherson, Route 6, Burlington; F. C. McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. F. C. McPherson (Ethel), Route 2, Snow Camp; Frank McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Frankie Jo McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Fred McPherson (Emma), Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Hattie McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. H. C. McPherson (Essie), Route 2, Snow Camp; Jack D. McPherson, Route 6, Burlington; Joe McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Joe McPherson (Sara), Route 2, Snow Camp; Josie McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. J. Patton McPherson (Blanche), Route 2, Liberty; Morris McPherson, Route 6, Burlington; Phyllis McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Raymond McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Raymond McPherson (Veda), Route 2, Snow Camp; Russell McPherson, Route 6, Burlington; Mrs. Russell McPherson (Lucy), Route 6, Burlington; Tommy McPherson; Sylvia McPherson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Verdine McPherson, Burlington; Mrs. William McPherson (Gertrude), Route 6, Burlington; Paul D. Moon, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Paul Moon (Ruby Lee), Route 2, Snow Camp; Paul Ray Moon, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Paul Ray Moon (Brenda), Route 2, Snow Camp; Dewitt Moser; Mrs. Charles Moser (Della), Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Martha Jean Nickolson, 212 Marshall St., Graham; Bobby Noah, Route 2, Snow Camp; Linda Jane Oakley (McPherson), Route 1, Yanceyville; Mary McPherson Owens, Burlington; Mrs. Josephine Parker, Route 2, Liberty; Cordie Whitehead Pugh; Edsel Rich, Route 2, Snow Camp; Joe W. Rich, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Joe W. Rich (Jewel), Route 2, Snow Camp; Rita Rich, Route 6, Burlington; Stanford Rich, Route 6, Burlington; Mrs. Stanford Rich (Ruth), Route 6, Burlington; Mrs. D. Troy Richardson (Velna), 607 E. Davis St., Burlington; L. M. Robbins, Route 2, Liberty; Mrs. L. M. Robbins, Route 2, Liberty; Helen E. Russell, Route 2, Snow Camp; Leonard Russell, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Leonard Russell (Nellie), Route 2, Snow Camp; Ray Russell, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Dewey Sharpe (Ruby Wall), Route 2, Snow Camp; Ray Sharpe, Route 2, Snow Camp; Roger Sharpe, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mary Irene Ingold Sharpe, Route 2, Snow Camp; David Luther Smith, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. D. L. Smith (Helen), Route 2, Snow Camp; Dwight Smith, Graham, N. C.; G. C. Smith, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. G. C. Smith (Merle), Route 2, Snow Camp; Harold Smith, Route 6, Burlington; John Smith, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. John Smith (Annie Laura), Route 2, Snow Camp; Mary Grey Smith, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Roy Smith (Daisy), Route 6, Burlington; Jim L. Spoon, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Jim L. Spoon (Sallie), Route 2, Snow Camp; Walter E. Spoon, Route 1, Burlington; Glenda Joyce Stout, Greensboro; Juanita L. Swearington, Burlington; J. B. Taylor, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. J. B. Taylor, Route 2, Snow Camp; Albert Thompson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Benjamin Lacy Thompson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Clayton Thompson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Dolly Ann Thompson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Edward Thompson, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Ed Thompson (Wilma), Route 2, Snow Camp; Ann Tingen, Route 2, Snow Camp; Carolyn Tingen, Route 2, Snow Camp; Mrs. Jack Tingen (Lucille), Route 2, Snow Camp; Earl Wright, 2110 Maple Ave., Burlington; Emily Wright, 2110 Maple Ave., Burlington.

#### Church Officials, 1962-1963

The Official Board of the church is composed of the following elected stewards: Mrs. Emma McPherson, Mrs. Clay McPherson, Mrs. F. C. McPherson, Mr. Howard Graves, Mr. John Smith, Mrs. Paul D. Moon, and Mr. Robert Hill.

Also, the following are ex-officio stewards, by right of their other official capacity in the church program: Mr. Earl Wright, Mr. Paul D. Moon, Mr. Dorma Holt, Mr. Jack Daniels, Mr. F. C. McPherson, Mrs. Allen Culberson, Mrs. David L. Smith, Mrs. Josephine Parker, and Miss Phyllis McPherson.

The following Trustees are also members of the Official Board: Mr. G. C. Smith, Mr. J. L. Spoon, Mr. F. D. Hornaday, Jr., Mr. Russell McPherson and Mr. R. Z. Hornaday, Sr.

Honorary Stewards of the Board are: Mrs. F. D. Hornaday, Sr., Mrs. Charles L. Moser, Mrs. J. L. Spoon, Mrs. M. E. Graves, and Mrs. Alford T. Holt.





The various commissions and their members are as follows:

Membership and Evangelism: Mrs. Emma McPherson, Chairman, Mrs. Boyd McPherson, Mrs. F. D. Hornaday, Jr., Mrs. Raymond McPherson, and Mrs. R. Z. Hornaday, Sr. Ex-officio members: Paul D. Moon, Paul Ray Moon, the Minister.

Education: Mr. Dorma Holt, Chairman, Mrs. O. C. Guthrie, Mrs. Hoe McPherson, Mrs. Howard Graves, and Mrs. John Smith. Ex-officio members: Earl Wright, Paul D. Moon, Paul Ray Moon, Minister.

Missions: Mr. Robert Hill, Chairman, Mrs. Earl Wright, Mrs. Gertrude McPherson, Miss Ora Lou Culberson, and Mrs. Russell McPherson. Ex-officio members: Paul D. Moon, Earl Wright, Mrs. Paul D. Moon, Mrs. F. D. Hornaday, Jr., Minister.

Stewardship and Finance: Mr. F. C. McPherson, Chairman, John Smith, Mr. Boyd McPherson, and O. C. Guthrie. Ex-officio members: Paul D. Moon, Mrs. David L. Smith, Minister.

Christian Social Concerns: Mrs. Allen Culberson, Chairman, Jack Daniels, Mrs. Ruth Rich, and Mrs. Leonard Russell. Ex-officio members: Paul D. Moon, Mrs. F. C. McPherson, Minister.

Pastoral Relations Committee: Mrs. Robert Hill, Mrs. Dorma Holt, and Mr. John Smith.

Music Committee: Mr. Robert Hill, Mrs. Jack Daniels, and Miss Rita Rich.

Parsonage Committee: The Trustees.

Nominations Committee: Mr. R. Z. Hornaday, Sr., Mr. Boyd McPherson, and the Minister.

Communion Stewardess: Mrs. Roy Smith, Jr.

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H I S T O R Y  
SAXAPAHAW METHODIST CHURCH

Saxapahaw, N. C.

1960

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By

Ben Bulla

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HISTORY  
Saxapahaw Methodist Church  
Saxapahaw, N. C.  
By  
Ben Bulla  
1960

The Saxapahaw Union Church, which later became the Saxapahaw Methodist Church, had its birth largely due to the interest and efforts of three men. Those three, Samuel E. Woody, Sr., Joe Bacon, and William "Bill" Straughan, who were joined by others, started a Union Sunday School in the village of Saxapahaw in the early 1880's which eventually grew into the Saxapahaw Union Church.

The history of the Woody family dates back to John Woody, an English Quaker who came to America as a pioneer and settled in the North. His son, also named John, came to Alamance County and settled on the west side of Haw River just below Saxapahaw. Here a land tract was granted to him by the Colonial government, and across Haw River he built a ferry which served as an important link in early transportation in this area. Samuel E. Woody, like his forefathers, was a devout Quaker and lived upon the original land grant which was handed down from father to son for generations. Today Woody's sons, Sam and Paul, still own and farm this land.

Joe Bacon was descended from a Methodist circuit preacher. His great-grandfather preached at various churches in North Carolina and was in all probability a native of Orange County. His son, Calvin Bacon, also a Methodist and a civil engineer, left North Carolina to work in Georgia and later in Illinois at the time of the Civil War. He fought on the side of the North while his brothers opposed him in the service of the South. Calvin Bacon, wounded during the war, later moved to Texas where he died from his wounds but not before he persuaded his young son, Joe, then merely a boy, to promise to take his younger brother and mother back to North Carolina when he became old enough to do so. True to his promise, Joe Bacon carried out his father's wishes and brought the Bacon family to Burlington and Saxapahaw where he started to work in the cotton mill as a sweeper boy and later rose through the ranks to become a mill manager for the Cannon Mills in Kannapolis. Incidentally, Joe Bacon, who was determined to improve his formal education, and his daughter, attended Trinity College at the same time. His son, Worth Bacon, is a well known journalist on the staff of the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal-Sentinel.

One night Joe Bacon and his young friend "Bill" Straughan attended a revival service at Salem Church. Salem, a few miles to the northeast of Saxapahaw, was then an union church but later became Methodist Protestant and is today Methodist. Both men were converted at the service, and it was after this experience in the early 1880's that they united their efforts with Samuel E. Woody in starting an Union Sunday School.

The first meetings were held on the northeast side of the village at a tenement house known as the John Davis place. In recent years, to provide a site for the plant of Sellers Dyeing Company, this house was torn down along with some others and the hill side graded down.

In the beginning, the Union Sunday School's membership was composed largely of Quakers and Presbyterians, but gradually was swelled by various branches of the Methodists as well as some Baptists. The Baptist, however, at this time or a little later, had an organized church at Moore's Chapel at a site then on the western outskirts of Saxapahaw.





Possibly the Quaker element in the Sunday School came from the nearby Spring Meeting a few miles to the south; the Presbyterians probably came from Bethlehem to the east and a few possibly had their start at Hawfields, several miles farther away; and the Methodists came primarily from Salem to the north.

This heterogeneous group, denominationally, thrived in its Sunday School work and in a few years plans were made to organize a church and build a sanctuary.

In addition to Woody, Bacon, and Straughan, others now prominent in the group were George Phillips, Sr., William F. Lindley, William Hackney, Nancy Teague, Ben and George Williamson, the village mill owners, and no doubt others of which no record is available.

The church structure, a small one-room building, was completed in 1890, and, like the Union Sunday School, was known as the Saxapahaw Union Church, where all groups worshiped together as one congregation.

In all probability the White-Williamson Company, which owned and operated the cotton mill and held title to practically all of the land within the village, gave the land on which the church was erected.

The building was situated on the hillside which is now the front lawn of the present church. It stood near the spring branch which runs parallel to the highway and faced east instead of west as does the church today. The old road at that time ran on the east side of the church and made connection with a wooden bridge which spanned Haw River at a location a few hundred feet below the present bridge.

By 1910 the congregation had outgrown its original building. Early that year Rev. B. W. Mebane, Presbyterian, and Rev. George W. Holmes, Methodist Protestant, pastors of the church, met at the office in the Saxapahaw Store building with members from the various denominations within the church for the purpose of planning a building program.

At this meeting a building committee was appointed consisting of Mrs. George Williamson, Ed. W. Mann, and J. S. Clark. Under the direction of this committee the first major addition was completed in 1910, primarily an enlargement of the sanctuary to its present dimensions. Before this was done, however, the building was moved several feet up the hill and turned around to face the new road which had been built by this time to make connection with a new bridge that had been constructed farther up the river. The remodeled structure now faced the highway once again instead of having the road to its back as was the case after the road change.

The total cost of this work was approximately \$2,000. The young people in the church, organized into what was known as the Epworth League, worked hard to help finance this expansion and improvement. Through their efforts they raised nearly half the cost, or \$900.00. Of the remaining \$1100.00 the rest of the congregation paid about \$600.00, and the White-Williamson Company gave approximately \$500.00. The most successful single money raising effort was a variety program sponsored by the Epworth League. The program was held in the then new weaving room of the White-Williamson Company before machinery was installed and netted \$300.

The church continued to grow and the need for larger facilities increased. So in 1913 the south wing was built to the church providing space for two Sunday School classes known as the Baraca and Philathea classes. These rooms cost around \$700 and the money was raised by members of the two classes.



### Saxapahaw Methodist Church - 3

In 1919 four more rooms were added on the north side to provide space for the children's Sunday School Division, and these four rooms now accomodate the two youth classes and the ladies' class. This undertaking cost \$1200 and was under-written by weekly pledges which were fully paid within one year. The present church steeple was also erected at that time.

In 1932, the last addition to the present structure was built. This was the present children's Sunday School department. It was added to the rest of the sanctuary at a cost of \$4,000. Of this amount the Duke Endowment Fund contributed \$1,000.

In 1935, B. E. Jordan, a leader and member of the church, gave an oil heating system at an approximate cost of \$1,200. About this time, also, the church hut was built at a cost of \$1,400. It was financed by the Men's Adult Class. Some of the class members active in this project were J. R. Baber, J. M. Neel, H. H. Lindley, and G. Parks Moore.

In 1950, the Saxapahaw Church became a station, having been since the Methodist merger a member of the Saxapahaw Charge, consisting of Saxapahaw, Concord, Orange Chapel, and Clover Garden. At this time Sellers Manufacturing Company had built a house next to the church and deeded it to the church as a parsonage.

The last major improvement on the physical properties of the church was made in 1955 when the old pews and pulpit furniture were replaced and the front of the church sanctuary was renovated with a divided chancel and a central altar arrangement. This project cost approximately \$3,500 and was paid for by individual pledges and by help from the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

This renovation program was dedicated in honor of two of the church's most outstanding members and leaders, Dr. Percy E. Lindley, and Ed. W. Mann. Dr. Lindley, a former member and native of the community, rose to a position of wide influence and leadership in religious and educational work. He was a member of the High Point College faculty from its inception in 1924 until his death in 1952, and during that time contributed greatly to the growth and success of that institution. In addition to teaching in the Department of Religious Education, he served many years as dean of the college. He also was an ordained Methodist minister and an author. His two published books are: Rise Up and Walk and Human Nature and the Church.

Mann devoted many years of dedicated service to the church, serving in practically every office. Perhaps his greatest service was rendered as superintendent of the Sunday School, a position he filled for 30 years. A bronze plaque was placed in the vestibule of the church in recognition of these two men.

During the congregation's existence as a union church, all of the various faiths worshipped together by practicing a rotating system of appointments for each denominations's pastor. Evidently this system was well accepted and each denomination cooperated wholeheartedly with all the others. Attendance did not seem to vary regardless of which denomination's pastor was preaching.

Actually the Presbyterians, Methodist Protestants, and Methodist Episcopal South were the only organized churches within the union. Yet many Baptists and Friends (or Quakers-) worshiped with the organized memberships. And from time to time the Friends, at least, sent preachers to conduct services. Some of the Quaker preachers were Mary C. Woody, Margaret Hackney, and Rufus Pegg.



## Saxapahaw Methodist Church - 4

The Quakers, around 1914, were the first to pull out of the union as a group. The Presbyterians gradually declined in number and the few who were left eventually became affiliated with the surrounding Presbyterian churches, principally Bethelhem. Although a Presbyterian minister had not been appointed to serve the Saxapahaw Union Church since the pastorate of N. N. Fleming in 1931, it was not until 1938 that the Presbyterian Church officially removed the Saxapahaw congregation from its records.

The two branches of the Methodists, the Methodist Protestants and the Methodist Episcopal South, continued to worship as a union church until the unification of the various factions of the Methodist church into solid Methodism in 1939. The Saxapahaw Union Church then became the Saxapahaw Methodist Church, its present status.

So far as can be determined, the following is a list of the persons who have served as superintendent of the Sunday School from its inception until now. They appear in the approximate order of their tenure of office: W.M. Cates (probably Baptist; His service could not be verified), Wilson Atwater, Methodist Episcopal South; A. M. Neese, Methodist Protestant; Samuel E. Woody, Sr., Quaker; J. S. Clark, Baptist; J. N. Cates, Baptist; J. O. Corbett, Presbyterian; E. W. Mann, Methodist Episcopal South (30 years); Frank Longcrier, Methodist; Ben Bulla, Methodist; K. W. Tisdale, Methodist; J. B. Knox, Methodist; and Dan Montgomery, Methodist.

From the early years on, the Methodist Protestants were probably the largest organized group in the Union church. Ranking second were the Methodist Episcopal South, with the other faiths following with lesser numbers. It should be noted that Alamance County was a stronghold for the Methodist Protestant Church prior to the unification.

On the Saxapahaw circuit of the M. P. church were four churches; namely, Concord, Orange Chapel, Salem, and Saxapahaw.

The M. E. South circuit of which Saxapahaw church was a part was known as the Alamance Circuit at first but was later divided and the name changed to South Alamance Circuit.

In 1894, the membership of the Saxapahaw Union church was approximately: Methodist Protestant 65, Methodist Episcopal South 56, and Presbyterian 30. The Quakers and Baptists attended, of course, but were not members of the organized church. Today the membership of the Saxapahaw Methodist church is 198.

The following is a list of the pastors of the Methodist Protestant Church showing the dates of service:

W. C. Kennett	1894 (So far as could be determined, this was the first M.P. appointment)
J. D. Williams	1895-96
D. A. Highfill	1897
W. W. Amick	1898-1900
J. H. Bowman	1901-02
G. H. Austin	1903
Unsupplied	1904
W. W. Amick	1905
D. A. Highfill	1906
W. M. Pike	1907
H.S.E. Thompson	1908
J. H. Bowman	1909
G. W. Holmes	1910-1914



H. S. B. Thompson	1915-16
J. Clyde Auman	1917
T. A. Williams	1918-19
J. M. Ridenhour	1920
H. L. Isley	1922-26
O. C. "Lum" Loy	1927-28
T. J. Whitehead	1929-31
W. M. Loy	1932-34
E. A. Bingham	1935-37
M. C. Henderson	1938-42 (Unification of Methodist Church occurred in October, 1939.)

In 1892 there was no mention of the Saxapahaw Methodist Protestant Church in the minutes of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. However some of the old members recall that R. R. "Dick" Michaux preached at Saxapahaw during the first years of the Union Church. The minutes of the Conference reveal that Rev. Michaux did not, at his own request, have an appointment in 1892. Therefore, in all likelihood, he preached at Saxapahaw during the period as a visiting minister. Based on this evidence, it appears that the Saxapahaw congregation did not become a part of the N. C. Conference until 1894.

The Saxapahaw Presbyterian Church was apparently organized on the fifth Sunday in May, 1896, (Minutes of Orange Presbytery, s 1896, p 265). It was dissolved on October 13, 1938 (Minutes of Orange Presbytery f 1938, p 237)

#### Pastors and Supplies

E. C. Murray, 1897-1900  
 R. W. Hines, 1902-1906  
 B. W. Mebane, 1906-1911  
 J. W. Goddman, 1912-1917  
 Jonas Barclay, 1917-1920  
 M. E. Hansel, 1921-1925  
 N. N. Fleming, 1926-31

From 1931 to 1938, the church did not have a Presbyterian appointment but probably had occasional supply preaching.

The Saxapahaw Methodist Episcopal South was on the Alamance Circuit at the outset. Later in 1910 this circuit was divided into two circuits known as North Alamance and South Alamance, and Saxapahaw was included in the South Alamance grouping. The following is a list of the Methodist Episcopal South pastors and their years of service at the Saxapahaw Union Church:

M. J. Hunt	1890-94 (This is not confirmed by the Church's journals but is believed to be correct)
B. C. Thompson	1895-98
J. A. Dailey	1899-1901
N. C. Yearby	1902
M. M. McFarland	1903-04
C. M. Lance	1905-08
M. M. McFarland	1909 (charge split into North and South Alamance. Churches in South Alamance were Swepsonville, Saxapahaw, Phillips Chapel, and Clover Garden)





G. W. Vick	1910
W. F. Galloway	1911-14
N. B. Strickland	1915-18
W. R. Hardesty	1919-22
L. M. Chaffin	1923
F. A. Lupton	1924-26
J. W. Autry	1927-28
J. O. Long	1929
J. W. Dimmette	1930
E. G. Overton	1931-32
J. A. Tharpe	1933-36
T. B. Hough	1937-38

M. C. Henderson was the Methodist Protestant Pastor at the time of unification in 1939 and was appointed by the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church as the first Methodist pastor. He served until 1941. Pastors of the church since then are as follows:

H. L. Harris	1942-45
D. D. Traynham	1946-49
James C. P. Brown	1950-53
Albert E. Fisher	1954-56
Roger E. Garland	1957

So far as can be determined, the following is a complete list of members of the church who have become ministers:

Charles C. Lindley (retired minister and teacher, Chapel Hill)

Dr. Percy E. Lindley (deceased).

Wade Hampton Mann (deceased, also taught at Rhodes Institute Military Academy in eastern N. C.)

Coy Thompson (attended church here as a youth and is now a Baptist minister in the Burlington area)

Eugene Tisdale, Methodist minister in the N.C. Conference.

B. E. Jordan, U.S. Senator from North Carolina, is the church's most distinguished member today. He came to Saxapahaw in 1927 to become the executive head of the Sellers Manufacturing Company which purchased the mill properties of the old White-Williamson Company which went into bankruptcy. Sen. Jordan built the local textile firm into one of the most successful in the industry. Through the years, he and his family have contributed greatly to the Methodist Church, locally, as well as the church at large.

His father was Rev. H. H. Jordan, a Methodist minister who served churches mainly in Piedmont and Western North Carolina. A memorial library has been established by his family at Duke University Divinity School in his memory.

Other members of Sen. Jordan's family include Mrs. H. C. Sprinkle, Jr., of New York City, whose husband, Dr. H. C. Sprinkle, Jr. is editor of the Methodist Mission publication, World Outlook; Dr. Charles E. Jordan, vice-president of Duke University; Dr. Henry W. Jordan, prominent Methodist Laymen in the Western N. C. Conference and textile executive; and Dr. Frank Jordan, one of the foremost Methodist ministers in the Western N. C. Conference of the Methodist Church.



One of the church's pastors who achieved widespread distinction was Rev. George W. Holmes, who, while he was pastor of the Methodist Protestant circuit at Saxapahaw, was elected president of the N. C. Methodist Protestant Conference. He was recognized as being one of the Methodist Protestant Church's most able ministers and leaders in his day.

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(Sources for information for this history: Mr. Ed W. Mann, Mr. H. H. Lindley, Rev. Hubert L. Isley, Mr. Worth Bacon, the Bursar's Office of High Point College, Duke University Divinity School Library, and the Historical Association of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, Montreat, N. C.)







H I S T O R Y  
(1955-1962)

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST CHURCH

607 Trail 2, Grove Park

Burlington, N. C.

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Rev. Rufus H. Stark, Pastor

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Compiled by:

Occo D. Gibbs  
Rev. Frank E. Wier  
Rev. Rufus H. Stark





## HISTORY ST. PAUL'S METHODIST CHURCH

In the year of this writing, St. Paul's Methodist Church is one of the most recent additions to Methodism in Alamance County. The Congregation dates September 18, 1955 as the organizational meeting, but before and after that date there is a story to be told. Burlington is a growing city, and for some years prior to 1955, discerning Methodists were beginning to see that there was needed in the Grove Park Area a Methodist Church to serve the needs of the people in that community.

So it was that in the summer of 1955 two Duke students, under the direction of Dr. A. P. Brantley, Burlington District Superintendent, and the Rev. Tom Collins, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, made a survey of the entire Grove Park area. They found that of 700 homes surveyed, 126 were clearly Methodist Constituency.

After due publicity, a meeting date was set, and on September 18, 1955 a group of interested families met at 3:00 in the afternoon at nearby Shiloh Presbyterian Church. This group organized themselves into the duly constituted Grove Park Methodist Church and continued to meet for some six weeks at Shiloh Church, with the Rev. Frank E. Wier, first pastor. The Constituting Conference and First Quarterly Conference of the Church, presided over by Dr. A. P. Brantley, District Superintendent of the Burlington District, elected the following as Stewards: George Winfrey, Mrs. Eunice Wilson, Mrs. Melba Salmon, Forrest Deaton, Paul Wall, Mrs. H. D. Young, Willard Ted Lowe, Walter E. Bivens. Trustees elected were: Frank Overman, Grady B. Long, Bill Ward, Fred Darby, George Reid, and Bernard Oakley.

On Sunday, October 30, 1955, a merger which had been a possibility since before the church was even organized, was consummated. The new Grove Park Church and the Fountain Place Methodist Church merged to become the St. Paul's Methodist Church. The Rev. Mr. Wier was also serving as the pastor of Fountain Place Church prior to the time of the merger.

Since this merger is such a significant moment in the history of St. Paul's Church, it is essential that the History of Fountain Place Church be included in this account. For in the story of Fountain Place Church is the thrilling account of a group of Methodist Christians who ventured out to establish a Mission Congregation, built a building, paid for it, labored together in loyal service, then voted to sell their property, merge with the Grove Park Church, and begin again as a Mission Congregation.

For some time prior to 1922, the need was recognized for the establishment of a Methodist Protestant Church in the western portion of Burlington. The Rev. S. W. Taylor, Pastor of the First Methodist Protestant Church (now Davis Street Methodist Church) along with other Conference officials appointed a board to proceed with the selection of a site, the erection of a suitable building, and the organization of a church. This board, later to become the first official Board of Trustees, was composed of: J. E. Moore, R. F. Williams, M. A. Coble, W. R. Thompson, T. T. Stafford, Milo Scott, and C. B. Amick.

A large corner lot at Front and Atwater Streets was selected and purchased from C. F. Thompson and wife under the deed dated December 12, 1922. Building Contractors, Sharp and Bryant, erected a single story building which was used for services and Class rooms until the second and third floors could be completed. The construction was financed through a loan with the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company. The actual building and formulation of plans to raise funds were under the guidance of a Campaign Committee composed of members of both the First Methodist Protestant Church (now Davis Street Methodist Church) and the new Church. Serving from the new Church were: C. B. Amick, Chairman; H. W. Wade, Secretary and Treasurer, D. D. Glenn, T. A. Amick; and Rev. G. H. Hendry. Serving from the First Church were: J. G. Rogers,



Vice Chairman; Mrs. J. W. Huffman, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer; W. V. Coble; T. T. Stafford; and Rev. S. W. Taylor.

The first Sunday School was organized in July 1924, and the first pastor was Rev. C. J. Edwards, who also served the Gibsonville Methodist Protestant Church. Formal opening of the Sunday School Building was October 4, 1925, with the opening sermon by Dr. T. H. Lewis, President of the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. Records indicate a membership of 81 as of October 28, 1925.

The selection of a name, Fountain Place Methodist Protestant Church, was perhaps influenced because of the nearness to the Fountain Place residential development; however, there is added emphasis placed upon its selection when we quote from the records: "The significance of the name may not be plain to all of us, but the thought in it is responsible for its adoption. We think of a fountain as a place to quench our natural thirst, and we want to think of this fountain as a place where we and everybody can quench our thirst for spiritual goodness."

Pastors serving Fountain Place Church prior to the merger were: Rev. G. J. Edwards, Rev. C. H. Hendry, Rev. W. M. Loy, Rev. N. G. Bethea, Rev. R. C. Stubbins, Rev. W. M. Loy, Rev. R. E. L. Moser, Rev. C. J. Andrews, Rev. R. H. Lewis, Rev. Thad McDonald, Rev. R. P. Fridley, Rev. L. P. Jackson, Rev. O. L. Hinson, Rev. D. J. Reid, Rev. J. C. Loy, Rev. Wm. Starnes, and Rev. Frank Wier.

From 1924 to 1955, for 31 years, pastors and members of Fountain Place Church labored faithfully together. For all of those years the pastor was a circuit preacher with more than one Church to his charge; sometimes it was three and sometimes more. Fountain Place Church never grew to great size, but what it lacked in size it made up in enthusiasm and loyalty in its fellowship.

One reason for some lack of numerical growth seems to have been that West Burlington had become rapidly over-Churched with Methodist Churches. Soon after the Fountain Place Church had been started by the Methodist Protestants, Front Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, sponsored a Mission nearby, which came to be called the West Burlington Methodist Episcopal Church, South. After Methodist Union in 1939, these Churches became a part of the same Denomination.

Several attempts to effect a merger of Fountain Place Church and West Burlington Church were made, but none of these efforts bore fruit. Finally in 1954, when the possibility of a Church forming in the Grove Park Area was recognized, under the leadership of Dr. Allen P. Brantley, District Superintendent, it was noted that a good proportion of the Fountain Place Church Membership lived in the vicinity of Grove Park.

Thus, discussion began to arise among the fellowship of Fountain Place Church regarding the possibility of a merger with the group which would soon be organized in Grove Park.

This issue seemed to have two sides. One side noted that Fountain Place had begun as a Mission Church: that the fellowship had given of themselves without reserve to erect a Church School building, and now the building was fully paid for. The building appeared adequate for their present needs and although prospects for growth were not too promising, at least the fellowship was out of debt.

The arguments on the other side of the issue pointed out that a Church which is not growing soon loses its vitality and spiritual freshness; that even though the building was paid for, it provided little room if the Church were to grow; that since a number of the fellowship already lived in the vicinity of Grove Park, a Church there would be convenient to them; and finally that this was a real opportunity to be of service to the Lord Christ in giving of the substance of Fountain Place Church to help birth a new Church on a growing edge of the city.



After much discussion the members of Fountain Place Church reached one mind and heart and voted to venture forth for the second time to have a part in the founding of a new Church to the Glory of God. A few of the Fountain Place Church Congregation, due to their nearness to other Churches in West Burlington, did not go with the merger, but by far the largest percentage did merge.

On October 30, 1955, then, the 31 year old fellowship of Fountain Place Church ventured forth to join hands with the newly formed Grove Park Church. Their first action was to choose the name St. Paul's Methodist Church, after the greatest Missionary of the Gospel. In the merger the Fountain Place Church gave of itself to birth the Fellowship of St. Paul's Methodist Church. Our Lord Christ said: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." John 12:24.

Now the new Congregation turned its thoughts toward expansion and the erection of a building. During these early years guidance was given by the pastor, Rev. Frank Wier, and much time and energy was given in helping the new Church get started by Dr. A. P. Brantley, the Burlington District Superintendent.

In January, 1956, the Building Committee selected Mr. R. R. Markley of Durham as architect, and planning was begun. Many months of planning were necessary before the plan was completed.

Meanwhile a Building Fund campaign was carried out and money began to be accumulated, in addition to that which had been collected by Fountain Place Church for several years. Early in 1957 the Fountain Place Church building was sold for \$25,000.00 and a small frame building to the nearby congregation of Disciples of Christ, who became the Front Street Christian Church. In addition to these funds the Board of Missions of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church granted \$15,000.00 to St. Paul's through the "Ten Dollar Club". These several funds amassed helped the fellowship get on its feet.

Mr. Mumford Gerringer began the task of moving the frame building which was received in exchange from the Disciples' group, but rain came before it left the lot and St. Paul's Church met for about a month in Rich and Thompson Funeral Home. Then the move to the new land purchased by St. Paul's Church was effected, and the Congregation looked forward to Easter Sunday worship on their new location in Grove Park.

Easter Sunday, April 17, 1957, was a great day in the life of the young Church. In addition to being Easter Day, this Sunday was Charter Sunday as well as the first Sunday for Worship in their new location and the day for Groundbreaking for the new building. Those who were Charter members in both Fountain Place Church and St. Paul's were designated Honor Charter Members. These Honor Charter Members were as follows: C. B. Amick, Mrs. C. B. Amick, T. A. Amick, Mrs. T. A. Amick, Irving Amick, Lednum Amick, G. C. Fogleman, Mrs. G. C. Fogleman, Wade Fogleman, C. L. Jones, Mrs. C. L. Jones, Mrs. C. T. Lindberry, Mrs. Morris Roach, James P. Scott, Mrs. J. E. Steele, Mrs. H. M. Terrell, Mrs. Sam Turner. In addition there were 81 Charter Members, as follows: Opal Allen, Hazel Alphine, Pomona Amick, Aubrey Amick, Jr., Larry Amick, Howard Barbee, Bill Bradsher, Henry Brewer, Sandra Brewer, Ben Crotts, Brenda Crotts, Vivian Davis, F. W. Parrott, George Fogleman, Donna Fogleman, Thomas W. Fogleman, Ruby Gay, Virginia Gerringer, Occo Gibbs, Royce Gibbs, Millie Hinshaw, Grady Long, Ted Lowe, Myrtle Mason, Steve Lowe, Dennis Miller, Wanda Miller, Charles Nance, James Parrott, Harold Schultz, Joseph Shoaf, Larston Smith, Winnie Sparks, Jack Steele, Hubert Terrell, Robert Whitemore, George Winfrey, Robert Young, Betty Zammitt, Ronald Fogleman, James Glenn Fogleman, Carolyn Allen, Aubrey Amick, Sr., Gordon Amick, Beulah Amick, Wayne Amick, Corda Barts, Inez Bradsher, Helen Brewer, Marie Brown, Eunice Crotts, John Davis Bill Euliss, Amenda Parrott, Hilda Fogleman, Betty Fogleman, Willard Fogleman, Horace





W. Fogleman, Walter Gay, Wayne Gerringer, Pink Gibbs, Mary Gibbs, Ivan Hinshaw, Lucille Hodgins, Mildred Long, Martha Lowe, R. G. McCauley, Bessie Miller, Ralph Miller, Matilda Montjoy, Linda Nance, Bertha Parrott, Mrs. Harold Schultz, Edith Shoaf, Ann Smith, Lala Stafford, Joy Stone, Jackie Terrell, Charlotte Whittemore, Olive Winfrey, and Eva Young. In all there were 98 members in the new Congregation.

The Building Committee had decided, reluctantly, that the cost of a "regular" contract would be prohibitive, and that the building must be built, therefore, on a cost-plus basis with volunteer labor. A truck was purchased for hauling materials, and members of the congregation assisted by driving and by unloading. Many suppliers assisted with discounts on materials furnished the Church.

This procedure of building resulted in a great deal of pressure for many persons, and indeed for the whole congregation. Besides the hundreds of hours taken from other pursuits, there were uncertainties, the day-by-day worry over many decisions, and the sense of danger to persons doing unfamiliar work. There were some minor accidents, but fortunately none which resulted in severe injury.

The building contractor, Mr. Lester Jessup, not only was generous with the terms of his contract but also with time and care expended in helping to insure the best possible building. The sub-contractors and workmen showed a similar concern. Those serving on the Building Committee (not all at the same time) during the years of construction were: George Winfrey, Chairman; Henry Brewer, Ralph Miller, C. B. Nance, Ivan Hinshaw, O. D. Gibbs, A. V. Amick, H. M. Terrell, T. L. Amick, Treva Ward, Ann Smith, Lala Stafford, Martha Lowe, Grady Long, Mrs. C. T. Lineberry, Mrs. Willard Johnson, Mrs. Bessie Miller, James Parrott, Mrs. T. L. Amick, Odell Salmon, J. W. Etheridge, Walter Wilson, Howard Barbee, W. L. Gerringer, Jr., Helen Brewer, J. Frederick Darby, H. D. Young, Jr., and V. E. York.

Finally, on June 15, 1958, the new Church building was opened for worship. Even then, much remained to be done, but a large and joyous step had been completed. Many persons had contributed, and all deserved credit. It was appropriate that George Winfrey, who had remained faithful as Chairman of the Building Committee and whose sacrificial service typified that of the whole congregation, should hand a set of keys to C. B. Amick, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and a faithful charter member of Fountain Place Church. He, too, stood for the whole congregation in its long-held dream of a truly effective serving and witnessing Church.

The new building, with organ and furnishings, was valued at \$95,000.00. The building is of modified Georgian design, a one-story, solid masonry construction. The sanctuary, which shows a definite colonial influence in interior design will seat approximately 300. The educational wing, a first unit, includes eight class rooms, kitchen, pastor's study, rest rooms, and heating plant. The steeple was not erected at the time of opening of the Church. The Church had negotiated a loan of \$30,000.00 with the First Federal Savings and Loan of Burlington to pay costs of the building.

Those who participated in the opening service were aware that this too was only a beginning. Even with the difficulties encountered, we knew that the really hard task lay ahead, in building a house not made with hands.

On the last Sunday in June, 1958, the Rev. Mr. Wier ended his tenure of service as pastor of the Church after giving outstanding, dedicated leadership from the very outset. He was appointed to serve as a member of the editorial staff of the Methodist Board of Education, and he and his family moved to Nashville, Tennessee. The new pastor, the Rev. Rufus H. Stark, began his service on the first Sunday of July of that year.

Although the Congregation had reached a milestone in the completion of the





sanctuary and first unit of the educational building, they were not of a mind to rest on their laurels. The Church did not own a parsonage: the pastor at that time was living in a rented dwelling on Atwater Street. After seriously considering the possibility of purchasing a house in the vicinity of the Church, the decision was made to build.

A beautiful wooded lot adjacent to the Church property was purchased from Mr. M. A. Coble, from whom the Church property had also been purchased. A Building Committee was appointed consisting of the following members: Hubert M. Terrell, Chairman; Miss Lala Stafford, Secretary; Ralph Miller, C. B. Nance, Ivan Hinshaw, C. D. Gibbs, A. V. Amick, C. L. Welborn, T. L. Amick, John Patterson, Watus Fuquay, Bill Fogleman, Joe Shoaf, Grady B. Long, George Winfrey, Henry Brewer, and Rev. R. H. Stark.

Feeling the cost of letting a full contract on the building again prohibitive, the Building Committee proposed to oversee the work with Mr. Terrell at the lead. Many people of the Church shared in the work which began in October, 1958, and Mr. Terrell's devoted leadership carried the project through to completion in July, 1959. The parsonage is a lovely eight room, brick veneered structure with carport. It was built and modestly furnished for \$14,500, which was secured through a loan from Community Federal Savings and Loan Association.

On September 16, 1962, St. Paul's Church will be seven years old. These years have been eventful ones, meeting the challenges which confront the birth of a new Church. The congregation is again turning its thoughts to the need for more building along with its concern for the many areas of need in the world. The fellowship is a witnessing body seeking to carry the faith to all in its community and beyond into all the world. As the number of members increases, it is devotedly hoped that the spiritual depth of each member will likewise grow.

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H I S T O R Y  
WEBB AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH  
(1961)

Burlington, North Carolina

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Rev. J. K. Bostick  
Pastor

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Prepared by

Mrs. D. N. Webster  
and  
Rev. J. K. Bostick

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HISTORY  
WEBB AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH  
1961

In 1893, a few Methodists living in East Burlington decided that they should organize a Sunday School. Led by Daniel Humble and his three sons, John, Bynum, and Hilary, a Sunday School was started in Floral Hall on the old fairground site. It is interesting to note that all three of these Humble boys became Methodist preachers in the North Carolina Annual Conference.

On a site donated by George W. Anthony, a member of Front Street Methodist Church, the people built a modest "chapel" one block from the present site of Webb Avenue Church. To this Chapel, Rev. J. A. Dailey came as the first pastor in 1895. He remained as pastor for four years, while preaching also at Haw River and Graham.

In 1899, Rev. B. C. Thompson came as pastor and stayed one year. In 1900 the name of the charge was changed to East Burlington, Graham and Haw River. Rev. Thompson was succeeded by G. R. Rood. The next year, Rev. G. O. Green came to serve the church and died before the year was out. His brother, W. B. Green of Graham, a local preacher, supplied for over a year. In 1903 Rev. C. M. Lance came and spent two years on the charge and was succeeded by Rev. G. D. Langston who spent only one year on the circuit. Next, Rev. W. T. Sanford was sent to the charge for two years and in 1908 Rev. T. G. Vickers came and remained for two years. Most of these pastors lived in Graham while preaching at East Burlington Church.

In 1910 the church was placed with the North Alamance Circuit, which was being served by Rev. M. M. McFarland, who died during the year. He was succeeded by Rev. B. T. Hurley who remained for one year.

During the pastorates of Rev. F. B. Noblitt (1911-1912), the church was moved from the original site to its present location. A lot was bought, and funds were collected for a new church building. The work progressed slowly.

In 1914 while serving the Mebane circuit, Rev. E. C. Durham preached at East Burlington. In 1915 East Burlington became a station, and Rev. R. E. Atkinson was the pastor for two years. He was followed by Rev. E. C. Glenn for two years, Rev. J. F. Starnes for two years, and Rev. N. E. Coltrane for two years.

During Rev. Coltrane's second year the station was changed to Webb Avenue. In 1923, however, the church went back with Graham and Haw River, with Rev. L. V. Harris serving as junior preacher under Rev. G. M. Daniel, as the pastor of Webb Avenue Church. The following year Rev. Harris was made pastor of Webb Avenue Church which again became a station. Rev. J. W. Autry was pastor for two years, and in 1927 the church was placed with West Burlington and served by Rev. E. C. Durham in his second pastorate at the church. During the year the present church building was finished as far as funds would permit. Rev. Durham served only the Webb Avenue Church his second and third years. Rev. E. G. Overton served the church for one year, and was succeeded by Rev. Robert L. Jerome who came in 1931. At this time Webb Avenue and Haw River were served as a charge. Rev. Jerome served the charge for four years. He was a great worker with the young people, and the first Boy Scout Troop at Webb Avenue was organized under his leadership. He was followed by Rev. R. Grady Dawson in 1935. He served Webb Avenue and Haw River for three years. Many members were added to Webb Avenue Church during his years of ministering. Rev. O. I. Hinson followed Rev. Dawson in 1938. He stayed for two years, at which time Haw River Church was withdrawn from the charge, and Fountain Place was added to it. Rev. C. J. Andrews came to serve the charge, succeeding Rev. Hinson in 1940. He served for five years. During his service here as pastor,





Webb Avenue Church again became a station church and has been since that time. The church was dedicated during the pastorate of Rev. Andrews on September 13, 1942.

Rev. I. S. Richmond followed Rev. Andrews and served Webb Avenue for nine years. This was an honor both for the pastor and the church. During his pastorate, many outstanding things were accomplished. A pipe organ was given by Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Griffin and family. It was installed and dedicated in 1947. Beautiful stained glass windows were given by members and families in honor and in memory of various members of the church. They were installed and dedicated in 1948. The windows added much beauty to the sanctuary. The basement of the church was redecorated. The floor covering of asphalt tile, was given in honor of Miss Blennie Way, who served for many years as superintendent of the Children's Department. New chairs were bought and the walls were painted. A large number of members were added to the church under the consecrated leadership of Rev. Richmond. It was also during his pastorate that plans were made for an educational building to provide ample room for Sunday School classes and to add beauty to the present building. Through the years there have been long, hard hills to climb but gradual progress has been made and much has been accomplished.

During the last years of Rev. Richmond's ministry at Webb Avenue Church, a building fund for the new educational building was started. Interest in the project was high and a meeting was called and it was decided to have an architect draw up the plans. The following persons were named to the Building Committee: J. T. Lindley, Chairman, D. D. Matthews, F. F. Overman, W. T. Hinshaw, W. T. Hargrove, C. G. Michael, Cecil Tomlinson, Phil Selden, T. H. Traynham, treasurer--Swanson Robertson, Dwight Hopkins, J. D. McDonald, J. O. Hayes, W. E. Bivens, R. L. Johnson, W. E. Andrews, and Rev. I. S. Richmond. R. R. Markley was chosen as architect. The above committee was appointed in the summer of 1953 and the architect began working on plans. This activity helped the building fund to grow. It was at the beginning of the Conference Year 1954 that Rev. M. W. Maness came to serve as pastor of Webb Avenue Church. He served for four years, and it was during the last years of his service at Webb Avenue that the beautiful educational building was built. It was completed and put into use in the fall of 1957.

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Seven Duke University Divinity School students have rendered useful service to the church while serving as Youth Directors and assistant pastors. They are as follows: Russel Montfort, Earl Crow, Don Welch, Joe Morris, David Townsend, Ezra Earl Jones and Oliver W. Clark.

Webb Avenue Church was fortunate to have as its Organist and Choir Director for nine years (1949-58), Mrs. E. Leonidas Smith. Mr. Wynn Riley, a Music Major at Elon College served as Organist-Choir Director for two years (1958-60). Then Mrs. Lois Bivins served in this capacity for several months. Our present Organist and Choir Director is Mrs. Thomas B. Lewis (Gala Lambeth Lewis). Mrs. Lewis began her work with us February 15, 1961. These too, have rendered great service to the church and assisted the ministers and people at Webb Avenue in a fine way. The membership of the church is 667 as of this date (December 21, 1961).







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H I S T O R Y  
WEST BURLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH  
Corner Trollinger And Kivett Streets  
Burlington, N. C.  
(1924 - 1961)

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Rev. P. F. Newton, Pastor

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Prepared and Written

By

Clyde W. Cable

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## HISTORY - WEST BURLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

The West Burlington Methodist Church was begun in January of 1917 and finally organized in November of 1924.

On January 18, 1917 a group of women from the west part of Burlington, mostly from the Plaid Mills and Elmira Mills communities, met in the home of Mrs. J. P. McPherson on Plaid Street and organized a Women's Missionary Society. Miss Agnes Stewart, Deaconess of Front Street Methodist Church, organized this Society with 18 charter members, with elected officers, as follows: Mrs. A. J. Whittemore, President, Mrs. J. P. McPherson, Vice President, Mrs. A. A. Apple, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Flora Stubbins, Treasurer, Miss Eula Neese, Recording Secretary, Mrs. A. M. James, Miss Adelaide Whittemore, Miss Mary McPherson, Mrs. Sally Foster, Miss Sallie Huffines, Miss Agnes Stewart, Mrs. W. A. Neese, Mrs. Grover Cable, Miss Deliah Jane Danieleley, Mrs. J. W. Sykes, Mrs. Joseph Whitesell, Miss Annie James, and Miss Viola Cable.

Realizing the need for a Methodist Church in the West Burlington area, these women worked to establish one. Their prayers, faith, and efforts were to be rewarded. A committee, composed of Mrs. J. C. Crutchfield, Mrs. A. M. James, Mrs. A. J. Whittemore, and Mrs. J. P. McPherson, was delegated to find a place and inquire into purchasing it for the establishment of a meeting place and eventually a church. These women selected the present site of the church and made arrangements with the W. E. Sharpe Real Estate Agency for the purchase of this property.

The women of the Society, with their husbands and families, worked hard in raising money by donations, solicitation, bake sales, and suppers and bought the Uncle Billy Oldham homeplace on the corner of Kivett and Trollinger Streets, present site of the church. There was a large two-story frame dwelling on this lot. The partitions on the first floor were removed to make an assembly room, or sanctuary.

The first public meeting held in this building was a prayer meeting on February 25, 1924. Many prayer meetings followed and on June 29, 1924 the West Burlington Methodist Sunday School was organized with 125 people present on Organizational Sunday. Messrs. R. Y. Whittemore and J. A. Lowe were elected superintendents of the Sunday School. Sunday School Superintendents have been: J. A. Lowe, 1924-1933; John Powell, 1933-1934; R. Y. Whittemore, 1934-1940; Lewis F. Campbell, 1940-1953; Ralph Cole, 1953-1958; Joe Burwell, 1958-present.

Realizing the need for establishing a church in West Burlington, as well as a Sunday School, the congregation of the West Burlington Methodist Sunday School had Dr. J. B. Hurley, pastor of Front Street Methodist Church, organize the West Burlington Methodist Church on November 2, 1924, with 77 charter members.

The charter members are as follows: Charles M. Shoe, Earl Everett Shoe, Mrs. Leroy Crawford, Mary Reiber, Mrs. Alice Faucette, Mrs. B. M. Terry, Millard Sharpe, J. Rankin Cates, Mrs. Annie Cox, Mrs. Robert Self, Sr., Rena Springs, Delilah Danieleley, John Reiber, Robert L. Self, Sr., Mrs. Grover Cable, Mrs. J. C. Crutchfield, Mrs. C. J. Durham, Sr., Viola Cable, Grace McPherson, Mrs. Carl C. Vaughn, Bruce Durham, Mrs. C. E. Stubbins, Annie James, Alvin Cable, Mrs. W. H. Hunt, Opal Whitesell, Mrs. J. A. Lowe, R. Y. Whittemore, Ruth James, Earl Sharpe, John A. Robertson, G. Leroy Crawford, Grover Cable, Mrs. Bruce Whitesell, Mrs. Joe Whitesell, Clarence Whittemore, A. J. Whittemore, Bruce Whitesell, Mrs. Charles Tillman, Kelly James, Melvin Kinney, B. M. Terry, A. J. James, Mrs. John Long, Mrs. W. J. Smith, Mrs. A. M. James, Pauline Whitesell, Mrs. Mable M. Wilkins, Mrs. Martha Kinney, Mrs. Earnest Rippy, W. J. Smith,





Mrs. Alpha Godfrey, James Whitesell, Mrs. James Mansfield, Mrs. Clay Moser, Mrs. Lee Murray, Pauline Whittemore, Mrs. James Whitesell, Lena Isley, Martha James, Dave Staley, Lyman James, Luther James, Mrs. J. T. McAdams, Mrs. Albert Kenney, J. A. Lowe, Mrs. Will Whitesell, Carl C. Vaughn, Mrs. Joe Sharpe, Etta Springs, C. J. Durham, Sr., Mrs. J. P. McPherson, Mrs. A. J. Whittemore, James A. Mansfield, Mrs. R. Y. Whittemore, and Lee Murray.

In November of 1924 the North Carolina Methodist Conference met in its annual conference and appointed Rev. E. G. Overton to serve as pastor of the new church. On November 23, 1924, Rev. Overton preached his first sermon in the church.

The first Quarterly Conference of the new church was held in December of 1924 by Rev. M. Bradshaw, District Superintendent (known then as the Presiding Elder) of the Durham District.

The name "West Burlington Methodist Church" seems to be a communal name. It seemed appropriate for the Woman's Society to be called the Woman's Missionary Society of West Burlington, so the Sunday School and church took its name from that. No particular person seems to have suggested it.

The church progressed and grew. More class room space was needed. A large hut was built on the property in 1935 to help alleviate the situation. As the church steadily grew in membership, plans were made for erection of a modern sanctuary and Sunday School building. In 1940, during the pastorate of Rev. L. L. Parrish, part of the frame structure was torn down and the sanctuary was built. The first service in the new sanctuary was held October 9, 1940, with Rev. E. G. Overton, first pastor of the church, preaching. In 1941, still during the pastorate of Rev. Parrish, a lot at 909 Askew Street was purchased and a seven-room parsonage was built.

One of the highlights of the church's history was the laying of the cornerstone and dedication of the sanctuary. On August 1, 1943, Bishop Clare Purcell, assisted by Dr. E. S. Love, District Superintendent, and Rev. M. C. Henderson, Pastor, laid the cornerstone and dedicated the sanctuary.

During the pastorate of Rev. G. W. Blount in 1949, the remainder of the frame building and hut were removed, and a modern three-story brick Sunday School Department building was built.

Since the church has been organized, the enrollment has grown to 615 membership and the Sunday School enrollment has grown to 595 membership.

In 1957, under the pastorate of Rev. W. A. Tew, the sanctuary was completely renovated, including the fellowship hall and kitchen. This project was under the supervision of the church, the Young Men's Class, and the Woman's Society of Christian Service. When this was completed, a lot next door to the church on Kivett Street, was purchased for further expansion of the Sunday School Department.

The West Burlington Methodist Church has had three persons to go into the ministry. They are: Rev. C. M. Fogleman, of the Kansas Methodist Conference; Rev. D. M. Meadows, of the North Carolina Methodist Conference; Rev. L. H. Marshall, of the Evangelical Methodist Church in Burlington.

To list the officials of the church down through the years and the willing workers who have helped build this church would require listing a majority of the membership. The people of this church have always worked, both spiritually and manually, to build this church.



The roster of pastors includes: E. G. Overton, 1924; E. C. Durham, 1927; B. L. Poole, 1929; A. C. Thompson, 1930; C. F. Heath, 1932; J. A. Martin, 1936; B. O. Merritt, 1937; L. L. Parrish, 1939; M. C. Henderson, 1942; G. W. Blount, 1946; J. R. Poe, 1950; W. A. Tew, 1956, and the present pastor, Rev. P. F. Newton, who assumed the pastorate in 1960.

The roster of district superintendents includes: M. Bradshaw, 1924; J. C. Wooten, 1926; H. C. Smith, 1930; H. B. Porter, 1934; A. J. Hobbs, 1938; F. S. Love, 1942, H. C. Smith, 1944; E. L. Hillman, 1948, W. L. Clegg, 1953; A. P. Brantley, 1955; and W. L. Clegg, 1960.

The roster of bishops includes: Collins Denny, 1924; Edwin Mouzon, 1925; Paul B. Kern, 1933; Clare Purcell, 1938; W. W. Peele, 1939; Clare Purcell, 1940; W. W. Peele, 1944; Paul N. Garber, 1952 to present.

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